Entertainment
'Imelda: A New Musical' opens 6-week run in Los Angeles

Sports
Tiger misses cut for first time in 7 years

World / A12
Pope Benedict XVI starts sainthood process for Pope John Paul II

Magazine
Hello, metrosexuals, this sleek magazine editor wants you

Lifestyle
The Monique Lhuillier magic in exhibit of Cebu arts, crafts at New World

2 journalist-witnesses in Cebu get death threats

By Johner Balandan
AFP Virginia Bevacqua

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Fat cat gets pay cut, now down to P200T a month

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Sunday, May 15, 2005 ■ 32 pages / vol. IX / no. 156

Jueteng lords use OFWs

Mayors to sue Isabela gov for 'jueteng' allegations

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
AFP Marlon Lanuza Ramos
and Luige B. del Puerto

UNDERWATER GUARDIANS: A sea urchin (above) and a rare turtle called manual of the sea are only two of the species underscoring recent Puerto Galera Bay to Orientalis Mindoro's new sanctuary with Unesco's support of the prestigious Club of the Most Beautiful Bays of the World, the world's first, in the Asia.

Unwitting workers abroad clean dirty money

By Christine F. Esguerra

Sierra Madre guardian is Isabela's best kept secret

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PACIFIC WAR

In spin-off bid, PPI did not inform SEC of cash problems

By Nicole Puja

SPECIAL REPORT

Lush Philippines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

7 suspected Abus killed in clash

By Luige A. del Puerto and Jude S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SEVEN suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf group were killed, while two Marines were wounded during a firefight in Patikul, Sulu, early yesterday.

Capt. Rommel Abraso, Marine Corps information officer, said two alleged "sub-leaders" of the bandit group were killed in the encounter.

He identified them as Kumander Hilarion and Abot Ion. Military intelligence sources said Hilarion was reportedly a close aide of Kumander Pasod, one of the Abu Sayyaf's top leaders, which Ion was allegedly involved in the abduction of 21 foreign tourists and workers from Sipadan, Malaysia, five years ago.

Soldiers recovered five Baby Armalite rifles and four M203 grenade launchers from the slain rebels.

The wounded soldiers were not identified. They were taken to the Jolo Provincial Hospital in Jolo.

The military has launched pursuit operations against the Basing bandit group which is linked to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Col. Juancho Sabban, 2nd Marine Brigade commander, said Marines raided the bandits' lair in Sitio Lubo on Friday night.

"Many of them were still sleeping and were caught by surprise by our attacking special operations team," Sabban said. "When they thought we'd give up, they realized that they were already facing the Marines."

He said the lair was a camp for an Abu Sayyaf leader because "only top ranking MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] members are allowed to stay in such camps."

An undetermined number of abductees were also wounded in the battle, Sabban said.

In terms of body count, this is the biggest encounter we have had against the Abu Sayyaf since February," said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

The encounter took place barely four kilometers from the province's capital, Jolo, an indication that the Abu Sayyaf had been forced by military operations from the hills, according to Sabban.

Marine forces have already occupied some of the ASG's known caves in Patikul. Combat operations have already displaced the landless elementary and forced them to voice down from the hills," Sabban said in a statement.

"This is the reality in Sulu," he said. "When we operate in the hills, then Abu Sayyaf runs down. That is why we really need the support of the military, especially the people's affection."

Pascual said that in the past, this forced fleeing the military would simply hide their true somewhere and mingle with the civilian population. In some cases, they joined in celebrations of their Ramadan.

With reports from AP, AFP

Help fight crime, GMA urges Pinoys

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PARAÑAQUE Msgr. Angel Arevalo yesterday called all Filipinos to help stem the rising crime rate and called for tougher laws on gun control as well as an end to the "culture of violence" that she said was being promoted in the mass media.

In a speech at the start of an anti-crime seminar in Makasalong core schools for persons of, the bishop urged volunteers and teachers to develop anti-school programs that would teach the youth "the value of peace and respect for human life, and how to resolve conflicts in nonviolent way."

She also called on "cultural role models," particularly entertainers, to "help bring under control the glorification of violence that contravenes the value of life itself."

Government officials, military and police officers, lawmakers, businessmen and social workers took part in the conference.

Speaking later with reporters, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said the participants agreed that criminality are "a social phenomenon that can only be addressed by the entire society working together."

He said the government's main goal in the anti-crime campaign was to restore the credibility of law enforcers in order to regain public confidence and instill fear in the hearts of criminals.

"We face violence in far too many forms and far too many in form—domestic violence against women, criminal violence against law-abiding citizens, violence in efforts to overthrow our nation, violence to resolve political differences," the President said.

She added: "There is so much thing so good violence or bad violence, or even an acceptable level of violence. It is all backsliding must stand up to it.

"I call on all concerned Filipinos to join me as we take back our right to live in peace and harmony, free from indiscriminate violence be it on the streets, in our homes, or on TV."

While the conference was called specifically to address the string of high-profile crimes in recent weeks, including the killing of journalists, Ms Arroyo said she wanted the broader problem of the spreading "scourge of violence" addressed.

"We must solve these crimes, but we must also go beyond these crimes to turn around the culture of violence itself," she said.

Bomb blast kills boy, 11

DAVAO CITY—An 11-year-old boy was killed while a barangay consul and two civilians were wounded when a "bomb package" reportedly intended for a radio anchor in the gold-rich town of Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, in Compostela Valley, exploded Friday night.

Killed was Marlon Junior while injured were barangay police Rolbot Talangan and civilians Daniel Bayot and Ramil Castañeda.

Mt. Diwata barangay chief Francisco Tito said the package, which was very well wrapped, was intended for Isaias Cosme, manager and anchor of DXKI Radyo, a broadcast of the Manila Broadcasting Co.'s Radyo Natin.

Tito said the package was delivered at about 5 p.m. by a tricycle driver (motorcycle taxi) driver who allegedly got it in turn from a woman who was in a Bicam Isuzu IUV in Monkayo proper.

Tito said barangay tanod (councilman) called Cosme, who was in Davao City at the time, on his mobile phone.

Cosme told the tanod that he did not know the sender and immediately suspected that the package could be explosive.

On his way to the Asia detachment with the package, Talangan and his companion became curious and opened it. The box exploded.

Cosme said the incident might have something to do with the barangay's intensified campaign against illegal drugs. —with rep. A Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Philemon

'We're out if Chot's out'

By Jane Manuero

REMOVE Chot Reyes and vanish the thought of a national team backed by Philippine Basketball Association players in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships.

"We will only agree to lend our players if Chot (Reyes) is in charge," said SBA commissioner Noli Eala after a breakfast meeting yesterday with Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco.

"Otherwise, the PBA has no choice but to pull out of the Jumbo. Chot should have a direct hand on the affairs of the team and that was the condition set by the league's board of governors," he added.

Meanwhile, Cojuangco refused to be dragged into a verbal war with a BAP official who had accused him of being power hungry in the wake of the local Olympic body's decision to form a basketball committee that will take over the formation of the strongest possible national team in two international competitions.

EALA

The creation of the committee chaired by Cojuangco was supported and approved by the BAP and all major stakeholders of the sport.

Spokesperson Amy Remoquillo said that the former Tiche congressman just brushed aside the crusade of BAP legal counsel and spokesperson Jose Alemajan to concentrate on a decision the POC is expected to render tomorrow on the BAP's sudden change of heart.

Remoquillo said Alemajan's outburst against Cojuangco "only goes After the matter to expedite his decision on the matter," Remoquillo said. With a report from Mooney Castillo

Gin, Coke mix it up

SAN JUAN — Gina Cole ex Starbo 6 (Fly ex ... Gin Kings four ex Bash

BARANGAY Ginebra Bashers in new-found confidence against Gina Cole even as San Miguel Beer tries to tighten up the race for the lead in the 2005 Gian Maralco PBA Fiesta Conference today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings, who got out of a tie-game rut at the expense of San Miguel early this week, single with the Tigers at 4:30 p.m., hoping to improve their 6-5 win-loss record.

Star Hotshots and Andy Seigle will continue to rain the pains for Ginebra pending the completion of the documentary requirement imposed by the league on foreign-born players.

Both will also have to make do without Chris Jackson in its 6:30 p.m. date with San Miguel although the Turbochargers will be reinforced by Tony Dela Cruz again after he was reinstated Friday night.

Dela Cruz and Jackson were newly-signed as the Turbochargers dropped their third straight game, the last an 84-71 beating from the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals Friday night that dropped them to 6-8, just a victory ahead of tailender Coca-Cola.

SMB remains third at 9-6, behind the 9-5 record of Alaska and the 10-4 mark of leader TNT.

Jane Manuero

H. Centre, Toyota win

HARBOUR CENTRE retained pace Negros Navigation-San Beda, 85-69, yesterday in tech classic to six overnight semis berth in the PBL Unity Cup at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

With Mark Cardona leading the team's attack, the Port Masters easily notched their fourth straight win and eighth overall in 10 games.

With one game left in the elims, the Port Masters can advance outright if Mcmurtha Paintshop beats Metro rival Philcom Paints on Tuesday.

In the second game, Toyota Otis-Letran dumped Bacolan Energy Drink, 79-63, to boost its bid to gain a twice-to-beat privilege in the quarterfinal round.

At 6-4, the Knights must win their last game against defending champion Magnolia Ice Cream to secure the bonus incentive in the semi round.

Harbour and Mcmurtha will dog it out for the No. 1 position when they clash on Thursday at the La Salle Greenhills. But if Mcdonut prevails, the Port Masters need to beat the Jewels in semis themselves of an outright semis slot.

Cardona, the bonus candidate for the MVP award, logged 17 points on top of six rebounds and five steals in 24 minutes of play.

Harbour coach Tonichi Yturri got a little of everything from almost everybody as the Port Masters finally enlisted the services of top shooter Gabby Espinas, who was suspended for his involvement in a near-free for all against Toyota Otis-Letran last Thursday.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 85—Cardona 17, Bagtas 14, Rivera 13, Sara 8, Suarez 7, Castro 5, Jamisolan 5, Bautista 2, Mendoza 2, Dizon 2, Soler 1, Tungcuan0.

NEGROS 69— Alpanat 23, Asuncion 13, Bandrido 8, Hadjarul 6, Alcaraz, Arquiza 5, Balbino 5, Maggay 2, Arboleda 2, Sacramento 2, Lacson 0, Cruz 0, Quijano 0, Jamisola 0

Quarters: 25-10, 44-32, 64-52, 85-69.

Second Game

Toyota-otis 79—Lanong 16, Arellano 13, Orbe 12, Iglesias 8, Wilson 8, Lascuna 6, Acido 4, Bitanguajal 4, Rodriguez 4, Mejorada 3, Alvarez 0, Tuppal 0.

Bacolan 63— Ay 12, Rodero 10, Cordero 8, Constantino 8, Nuñez 6, Abalos 6, Rivera 3, Valentin 2, Cruz 2, Sy 2, Pilario 0.

Quarters: 15-14, 32-31, 48-43, 79-63.

Jawo, Dalupan named coaches

LEGENDARY coaches Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and Robert "The Big J" Jaworski have accepted invitations to call the shots for the PBA greatest players clashing in the league's "Greatest Games" to highlight the 30th PBA anniversary festivities this month, PBA commissioner Noli Eala announced Friday night.

To be divided into two teams through drafting, the league's greatest players figure in a classic reunion game on May 28 as the season-opener to Unleased.

Jaworski and the 24 other players named the league's greatest during the PBA silver anniversary make up the two squads joined in the Greatest Game.

La Salle spikers turn back Ateneo

LA SALLE put on amazing display of firepower and opened with twelve blocks debut in the Shakey's V-League, bulldozing over a 25-18, 25-23, 25-20 victory yesterday in the start of the event's 2005-2006 season before a packed crowd at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym.

The Lady Archers drew strength from Maureen Penetrante, Mirella Santos and Michelle Carolino to neutralize the gutsy plays of the home, as the rookie combined for six points to anchor that team's onslaught and 21-minute victory.

Highlights of the matches, including the 103-Gen Sabandan game seen by NBC, 9/23, 25-13, 25-22, 25-14, will be shown over IBC Channel 13 starting at 5 tonight.

Suspect in Aurora publisher's slay arrested

By Tonnie Orejas
Phi Carmel Joson Dulk

BALER, Aurora—Authorities yesterday arrested a suspect in the killing of Marlina Times Reporter's publisher-editor Philip Agustin in Barangay Bitas here, on the same day he was supposed to be buried.

Senior Supt. Herbert Bikkel, chief of Task Force Agustin, said the suspect, Jay Morris, confessed his participation in the killing.

"[Morris] confessed that the plan [in Aili Agustin] was hatched in his house," Bikkel said, adding that the suspect admitted that he served as the lookout during the slaying.

Agustin, 54, a widower, was shot dead on May 10 inside his daughter's house in Barrio Alabanin in Barangay Bitas just as he was preparing to eat dinner past 11 p.m. He was the 69th Filipino journalist killed since 1986.

Operatives of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Morris at noon in a house owned by a certain Jessica whom he supposedly had.

Morris has been turned over to the NBI custodial office in Manila where he will be presented to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez of Justice on Monday, Bikkel said.

He said Morris did not implicate Mayor Julius Vicente in the murder. The police had included Vicente, a former policeman, as one of the possible suspects in the murder of Agustin, but the mayor has denied any hand in the killing.

Bikkel said Morris implicated his cousin, Jessie Morris, and Junel Alday, an employee of the Dingalan municipal government and pointed to them as the ones who shot Agustin.

Bikkel said the police now have strong evidence in the Agustin case with the arrest and testimony of Jay Morris. But he declined to provide details.

The police have launched a manhunt for Boyet Moreno and Alday.

Couple Penchito and Isabel Pilapil and a relative of Agustin's earlier testified that they saw three men at a cockpit but none the home of Agustin's daughter hours before the killing.

Dialing Agustin's burial yesterday, some 300 relatives, friends and supporters of the victim appealed for justice from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was buried in a plot at the municipal cemetery here near where his mother was buried in February.

"Whoever does killed a journalist, they are assigned to suppress the truth and now us into silence. But we are not afraid," Councilor Ishida Tuzy said, adding that protest rallies were scheduled in the next days to demand transparency from Mayor Vicente in how calamity, rehabilitation and reconstruction funds and other resources were used.

In his last yesterday's May 2-8 special edition, Agustin had exposed alleged anomalies committed by Vicente such as raising logs, the slow resettlement of displaced families, the spending of P1.5 million for the rental of heavy equipment used in clearing the area upwards prepared by tsunami waves, and the employment of funds meant for flash flood and landslide victims.

Agustin was carrying 500 copies of the special edition when he returned to his home-town on May 10, he was later shot dead.

NUJP: Comparing media, soldiers' deaths wrong

By Luige del Puerto

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes should not compare the murder of journalists with the heroic deaths of soldiers and policemen killed in action, the chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said yesterday.

Unlike the soldier who carries a gun into battle, a reporter is armed only with "a pen, a camera or a microphone," said NUJP chair Inday Espina-Varona.

Last Friday, Reyes, who had been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to solve the media killings in a way "as do" kidnappings, lamented that the deaths of soldiers and policemen did not get as much attention as the slaying of media people.

He said that when soldiers were killed, "they become statistics" and when a policeman was killed, only his and national police division General Senen Bacalso shed the tears.

Reyes was apparently saying that journalists should not be lamenting the deaths of their colleagues if they could give the same kind of attention to military and police deaths, said Espina.

"Media do pay homage to policemen or soldiers killed in the line of duty. Media have stories of their heroism," she said.

She said the media routinely cover the heroism of soldiers and policemen killed in action.

Reyes clearly was missing the point, Varona said.

"The death of one journalist is another death for democracy. You silence [the press] and you'll get a crowd populace," she said.

Varona said the NUJP has requested Reyes' call for a tripartite conference to plan strategy to put a stop to the media murders.

She said that if Reyes was really sincere, he should simply sit down with the media representatives that he regularly meets and who are ready to articulate their grievances.

The Ugnayang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also scolded Reyes' statement that there should be a "border of total journalistic freedom to cut off attacks on journalists" and amount to press freedom.

"That could be a bit far," said KMP information officer Carlo Alix.

Alix said a top police official's supposition that the penalty for libel be increased showed that authorities blamed the media for the killings.

"It seems the government's mantra to go after media men, not the killers," Alix said.

Son of OFW slain in Iraq assured of education

By Jocelyn Aning

THE SON of a Filipino engineer who was killed in an ambush by suspected Iraqi militants in Baghdad, Iraq, last month received a scholarship grant under the government's Balik-Eskwela project.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas handed a Tulong-Aral scholarship certificate to 10-year-old Richard Torres, a fourth-grader and son of engineer Roy Torres, and 49 other children during the 32nd anniversary of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration last week.

Roy Torres, 33, a father of five, was a security guard and driver of Qatar International Trading Co. when he was killed in a shooting incident in downtown Baghdad on April 17.

Tulong-Aral is a joint endeavor of the DWWA and individual overseas Filipino workers—from the Middle East, Japan and elsewhere—to help less-fortunate OFWs and their families. The OFW Tulong-Aral Foundation, Inc. made a big personal donation to the scholarships.

It was launched by the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO).

Sto. Tomas said that since millions of Filipinos began working overseas decades ago, "there are many success stories but, unfortunately, there were also those who were unable to persevere in the pains of overseas employment and eventually regressed to their socioeconomic conditions."

Sto. Tomas said the effort to help uplift the less-successful OFWs was inspired by President Macapagal-Arroyo who once said: "Our OFWs must be able to look to not only by the government's (or big) promises to them."

OWWA Administrator Mariannie Bejar said that, initially, 100 children were named under the first batch of Balik-Aral beneficiaries.

Bejar said DWSD and OWWA's regional offices provided family profiles to help in the selection of grantees, while the Police helped locate recondite and financially stable OFWs of good standing to take on the role of the children's foster parents.

Under the project, each OFW foster parent provided US$100 for one year for a child's elementary or high school education.

The amount covers the tuition fee, books, supplies, school contributions, uniforms and a stipend.

Lake 'saviors' open Manila meet

LEADERS in freshwater lake preservation from all over the world have gathered in Manila for the 11th World Living Lakes Conference beginning today until May 19.

Some 79 participants from Russia, the United States, the People's Republic of China, Germany and more than 24 countries will exchange scientific information and best practices to protect the remaining lakes, wetlands and other freshwater bodies in the world.

Key officials from the Ministry of Environment of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Global Nature Fund were welcomed by the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday by Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Ed Manalo.

This year's conference has two themes: "The Lake and its People: Responsible Investment Up to Lake Communities" and "The Lake and its People: Sustainable Development of Densely Populated Lake Regions."

The conference, hosted by the Philippines, will also focus on Laguna Lake's threatened existence. Local fishermen who are losing their fishing grounds have raised concerns about the lake's pollution level, rapid urbanization, and shrinking shore land due to illegal reclamation and land filling.

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ONE WAY TO KEEP COOL
Members of one of the teams participating in the 5th Summer Sun Sports Festival yesterday on Manila Bay near the road to keep in contention.

Annan backs RP peace, interfaith initiatives

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo met yesterday with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and both discussed UN support for Philippine initiatives in the world body, the peace process with Filipino rebels and the government's antiterror activities.

During the meeting, Annan gave his full support to the interfaith dialogue initiative of the Philippines, Romulo said.

"I had a very frank and fruitful discussion with the secretary general. He was upbeat and very supportive of our interfaith initiatives, including our plans to hold the Tripartite Conference for Interfaith Cooperation for Peace in Asia," the secretary-assistant-to-be said.

Romulo briefed yesterday the Tripartite Conference Initiative of the Philippines at UN headquarters in New York City.

Annan said he was glad Romulo's peace effort was bearing fruit.

"He gave his full support to our peace process and I briefed him on our progress. He expressed optimism and confidence in our success. I thanked him for his political support for our efforts to achieve peace," Romulo said.

The foreign secretary said he also thanked Annan for sending a technical team to the Philippines to assess the government's drafting of counter-terrorism laws.

"The UN chief said the international body fully supported the efforts of individual governments to fight terrorism, Romulo added.

"We both agreed that internal legislation was important in the fight and I told him that after passing a major piece of reform legislation in the form of the value added tax, the legislative agenda of the President will now place our attention full on the front burner," Romulo said.

Annan also thanked Romulo for his participation in the 2005 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for the active participation of the Philippines in the Security Council, and in the implementation of reforms in the UN.

"We discussed these matters with a view to finding ways to make the UN work even better. We both want a UN that works and is responsive to the pressing needs of the times," Romulo said.

Romulo also informed President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation to Annan to visit the Philippines. The foreign affairs chief said Annan could time his visit "eager to visit the Philippines, hopefully before the end of the year," and that the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN would be coordinating the details of the visit.

Bill on drug prices seeks 10M names

CITY SOLONS representing the major political parties said 14 party-list groups have launched a nationwide campaign to gather 10 million signatures in support of a bill giving the government the power to regulate the price of medicines.

Rep. Antonio Nicol Manzo, 4th dist., Cavite said the support he was getting in and out of Congress came in time after lawmakers—Rep. Ruben Ingkian (LDP, 5th dist., Cavite), Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas-CMD, 1st dist., Cebu) and Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, Lone dist., Agusan del Sur)—filed House Bill No. 5808 more and a half months ago now beyond expectations.

"Today, we would like to inform the Filipino people that your House of Representatives has already taken a very significant step leading to the passage of a law regulating the prices of medicines in the Philippines," Manzo said.

The employer association, however, said, "We in Congress can't do it alone, even Filipinos must come forward and be counted in the whole process by signing his or her name in various designated signing centers nationwide."

Manzo said signing centers would be set up in every congressional district, provincial capital building, city and town hall, barangay centers and drug store belonging to the Drug Stores Association of the Philippines.

Manzo said that as soon as the 10 million signatures are gathered, the bill's co-authors would take them to the President, "if only to impress upon her the true sentiments of our people."

"I don't think any President could ignore 10 million Filipinos pleading with her to settle the disparity of the measure and make it an integral part of her legislative policy agenda," he said.

During Wednesday's press conference and signature launch, representatives of various multi-sectoral organizations and groups representing elderly citizens showed up in support of the bill.

Those said Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Junior chapters and the government-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. have thrown their support behind the measure.

"But, I believe, in a watershed event in the lives and careers of all members of the 13th Congress [whenever] some influential sector of a, say, highly [one] who would oppose this bill is bound to be humbled by his conscience all his life," Manzo said.

Garcia, who like Manzo is a doctor of medicine, said that in Bulacan province, where many Filipinos live and die without ever being medicine (because they can't afford it), a bad-because-no-pension for all patients Filipinos to drop [unintelligible] be received.

Deported Fil-Aussie OK, says sis

By Veronica Uy
PDI 2x2

VIVIAN Alvarez, the Philippine-born, naturalized Australian citizen who was mistakenly deported back to the country of her birth, is all right mentally, her half-sister Gail Lobo told PDI 2x2 on Saturday.

"As far as the movement, massive nervous [she's basically all right], except physically. Emmanuel Hamon [the lawyer] advised that [Australian] consul general talked to her and she was civil," said Lobo, who was with officials of the Australian Embassy when they went to Olongapo City to get Alvarez. (She also met the consulate's Irene Young and William.)

Quoting the nurse who had cared for Alvarez in the Olongapo hospital for several years before she was located, Lobo said her younger sister cannot walk, had just learned how to feed herself, and had to be helped when dressing.

Asked to comment on reports on her half-sister's mental stability, Lobo said: "Except for some memory loss, she's OK... Even if you're not mentally unstable but if you're locked up for a long time, you'll be more withdrawn if there are a lot of people asking you a lot of questions."

Lobo, who was one of seven children from their father's first wife, said Alvarez, who visited her in the last 90s with her husband, initially did not recognize her.

PDI 2x2 had learned that Alvarez is staying at a condominium hotel in the Makati financial district.

A consulate's who commented he does said Alvarez did not wish to be interviewed and also said her family wished that their privacy be respected. She said she could not discuss when Alvarez was leaving for Australia.

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2 journalist-witnesses…

(From page A1)

She took it lightly because it had an edge of gallows humor to it, like "Sikreto na ang mahilig ang mga mo [Your happy days are numbered]"…the type of joke people might make about someone "suicidal" enough to want to bid goodbye to single-blessedness and a friend alone.

Salita is the CDN publisher's awardee for enterprise reporting this year—and a prosecution witness against an assistant city prosecutor who allegedly received P10,000 from a lawyer involved in a drug-dealing case.

Salita, 29, would have shrugged off the text message, which she received on Friday last week if it had not been quickly followed by another one.

6 threats

In a span of two days, she received at least six death threats.

They started from a simple, straightforward morning—"Patyon nila Ito 'Di I'll kill you. Ito ba Ito?"—to a chilli and in the same time ghastly "Ingats lang a ha. Aang ayaw ma pang ma. manty, tiwap ting magpakikuhin ha? tok. tok… mahal ngaun ang sukat! [Take care, please. If you don't want to die yet, don't meddle, please! … Gasto ang magpalibing ngaun no?

Sometimes, the message was plainly ridiculous ["Ding ding ang-alala. Ingaun no mala ngayon, pinag kinig-ingatan ng sa sana kuna ka ba kasi Lan? —Don't worry, because so, I will always pray that the Lord finally takes you].

The messages came from at least six different cellphone numbers.

Upon the advice of his friends concerned over her safety, Salita told her editors at the CDN about the messages—the first threats she had received in her seven years in the justice beat.

Police protection

CDN publisher Elmer G. Mangubat advised Salita "not to take anything for granted," and alerted the police, citing a recent report of the foreign-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) indicting the Philippines as the most murderous country in the world for journalists.

In the wake of the controversial rash of violence against Philippine journalists, especially those working outside Metro Manila, are can't afford to take this incident lightly," Mangubat wrote police regional head Chief Supt. Eduardo Gadiw.

Immediately, Gadiw assigned a police escort to Salita. For his part, CDN officials granted the reporter a one-week vacation with pay.

Another reporter, Lloyd Seares of dyRI-DXRI 7, has been receiving his own share of threats.

Seares said the threats started two weeks ago after four men in a motorcycle had him while he was driving to the DXRI Studio in Hired Hills, Labog, Cebu City.

The radio dyRI anchorman has the stalkers by driving his motorcycle at full speed to the station.

Prosecution witnesses

Salita and Seares have something in common: They are feared as prosecution witnesses in the case of Assistant City Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro before the Sandiganbayan.

Castro is charged with violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for public officials in connection with the P30,000 she supposedly received from Antonio Go on Jan. 25, 2002.

CDN editor in chief Jose Soaresing told the Inquirer that Salita, as a prosecution witness, would have affirmed in her planned testimony a story she wrote about Castro's alleged receipt of the P30,000.

Last Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan ousted by its ruling suspending Castro for 90 days pending her trial.

Three justices of the Sandiganbayan's second division have already heard the testimony of two witnesses, including Seares, who told the anticrime court that Castro even allegedly asked him to count the money on her table.

Seares said he suggested to Castro that they entrap the lawyer, identified as Gino Abellanosa, who was allegedly fronting for a member of a drug syndicate.

"It would have been very big news," he said.

According to Seares and the other witness, Imelda Pacis-Osano, a former friend of Castro who took the stand against her, the assistant city prosecutor told them the money was handed to her allegedly by Abellanosa.

The lawyer allegedly asked her to "go light" on the bail application of an accused drug trafficker in a Hong Kong Telephone.

Money unreturned

Castro supposedly tried to reject the money but told her the lawyer could give it back, they said, but for one reason or another, the money remained with her until Monday, Jan. 28.

The preventive suspension on Castro was not a punishment but was imposed because evidence in the case was strong and there was a need to prevent an accused from influencing witnesses or the case itself.

Sought for comment yesterday, the usually talkative Castro said nothing for the record.

Why she was still performing her official duties on Tuesday amounts to grave abuse of discretion on Tuesday amounts grave abuse has prejudiced the Ombudsman's prosecutors.

Assistant Prosecutor Pamela Baring Quiazon also had filed a manifestation asking why the Department of Justice had failed to enforce the suspension order.

Assistant Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Sandiganbayan's second division, told reporters the order must be implemented by acting Cebu City Prosecutor Nicholas Seliza and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"We ordered them on report to us if the order is implemented," Sandoval said. "It's up to them now. If there's a valid reason for them not to implement it, we will answer it."

Prosecutor Seliza said Gonzalez had not responded to his query on who should implement the order against Castro.

Not bribery

Castro is charged with criminal violations of a special law, Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards, and not bribery.

Earlier, the Court of Appeals found that the evidence to prove bribery was "insufficient" because there were no eyewitnesses to the act.

Lawyers from the Office of the Special Prosecutor of the Ombudsman welcomed the Sandiganbayan's move suspending Castro.

"It should be immediately implemented," said prosecutor Leo Fabulaso, "before she [Castro] can get a restraining order."

DOJ inaction

Baring-Uy said ordering Castro's suspension "is ministerial and mandatory on the part of the city prosecutor even before Castro asked for a reconsideration."

Baring-Uy questioned the DOJ's failure to implement it.

"Once a court orders anybody to do an act, we have no discretion not to do it. If we fail to abide by any order of the court, it's a contempt act," Baring-Uy told CDN.

She said the Court of Appeals' dismissal of the bribery case against Castro could not affect the case before the Sandiganbayan, which is another matter in a special law.

Baring-Uy said she was still studying the possibility of letting Salita take the witness stand despite the death threats against her.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 15, 2005
Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

The Spirit comes as a mighty storm

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky came a sound like a strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then tongues of fire appeared to them, which spread and came to rest on each one of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Staying in Jerusalem were religious men from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, all excited because each heard them speaking in his own language. Full of surprise and amazement, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and the people of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes who accept Jewish beliefs; Cretans and Arabians, and all of us hear them proclaiming in our own language the great deeds of God."

The Inspired Word of God

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
O Lord my God, how great you are!
How many are the things you have made, Lord!
The earth is filled with your creatures.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

You take away their breath, and they die and return to the dust from which they came.
Then you send your spirit, and they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever!
May the Lord rejoice in all that he has made!
May my thoughts please him!
I will find my joy in the Lord.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

We are one in the spirit

Brothers and sisters, no one can say, "Jesus is the Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There is a diversity of gifts, but the same Spirit is the source. There is diversity of ministries, but the Lord is the same. There is diversity of works, but the same God works in all.

The Spirit reveals his presence in each one with a gift which is also a service.

As the body is one, having many members, and all the members, while being many, form one body, so it is with Christ. All of us, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, have been baptized in one Spirit to form one body and all of us have been given to drink from the one Spirit.

The Inspired Word of God

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Receive the Holy Spirit

On the evening of that day, the first day after the sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews; but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the Lord and were filled with joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Commentary

"We read today of the Easter appearance of the Risen Lord to his disciples in the upper room, bringing them the Peace of Resurrection, the power over suffering and death, the shattering forth of the wounds to his body and the gift of the Spirit breathed upon them, sending them forth into the world, as the Father's own Son. The power of the Spirit is given to forgive and to hold bound the world unless it comes to us, lord and redeemer. There is no place on earth where our God can be kept out and remembered. He is present with every corner of the world. Now we are to be witnesses in the power of the Cross, the Word of Jesus' word and the proclamation of forgiveness and hope—we are not met with God and united to him in communion and grace. Peace be with you. Peace be with us all. Peace be to the world.

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Korean War vets in hall of fame

TWO FILIPINO officers who fought in the Korean War were inducted recently into the US Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame.

Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (ret.) and the late Brig. Gen Vicente Evidente were the first Filipinos so honored by the US Army. The OCS Hall of Fame recognizes leadership excellence in both military and civilian service. Induction in the hall is the highest honor bestowed on an OCS graduate.

Castro served with the 20th Battalion Combat Team (BCT) of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok). Evidente fought with the 10th BCT. Both were second lieutenants during the Korean War (1950-53).

ROTC graduates, Castro and Evidente were selected to attend the OCS at Fort Riley, Kansas, as members of Class 18-49. After OCS graduation, both fought in the campaign against the Hukbalahap that was attempting to overthrow the Philippine government.

The induction took place at Fort Benning, Georgia, the US Army's infantry training center and site of the OCS Hall of Fame.

The dangers of mixing business *with* pleasure

PEOPLE & PROFESSIONS

By Karina Y. Lopez

I'm a third-year engineering student working part-time as a bartender in one of the coolest clubs in Makati. I am also having an affair with my lady boss-owner who is married and has children. We have been intimate for almost a year now but for some strange reason, she told me recently she wanted out. She said, *"Ayoko na ng gulo."* And that her high stature in society is being compromised, not to mention her marriage to a powerful man (who can even have me killed!). Because of this, even our professional relationship is strained. I dread the day she would ask me to leave the bar. Problem is, I am not ready to give up all the "perks". She has supported me for so long I don't think I can go on without her. Plus, I can't be without a job as I am still paying for my own tuition. I don't know if I can get a job elsewhere given my limited skills and knowledge. I really fear losing my job *and her*! What should I do? Need your advice fast!

cooldude707

In any workplace, mixing business with pleasure can cause conflict not only between the two people involved but also among the employees. Any normal relationship is always subject to different kinds of pressure, all the more a professional one. Such liaisons put you in the midst of gossip, envy, and "politicking".

It is indeed unavoidable to feel attraction towards your employer especially when she reciprocates the feeling. However, the decision to get emotionally and/or physically involved is still up to you.

And because your boss is married, your relationship was all the more doomed from the very beginning. Let's face it, you are committing adultery and now that she is planning to put a stop to this illicit affair, you must respect her decision.

This would be hard on you especially as you appear to be so dependent on her. But you have to learn to stand on your own. Surely you have skills yet untapped that, if developed, will help you sustain your studies and eventually, secure your future.

However harsh this may sound, kill the relationship now before it gets out of hand. Nothing good will come out of it. You're still young after all, and seemingly full of potential to succeed. Don't waste your time in futile endeavors. Look for another job and *perhaps* another girlfriend who's single, unattached and not your boss!

(Karina Y. Lopez is a human resource consultant who specializes in relationships in the workplace. She has headed Ortega Management Solutions (OMS) since 1995. Send feedback to karina_oms @trust-me.com)

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In spin-off bid, PPI did not inform SEC of cash problems

From page A1

The Benigno Group

Legalizing fraud?

Gov't initial comment, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, the SEC said the "consequence of serious underdisclosure by PPI prior to the filing of its petition for rehabilitation with the Regional Trial Court may serve as basis for the commission of outside of jurisdiction of possible 'fraud upon the court' by PPI in using their 'applications' with the Commission in a way to legalize an otherwise fraudulent scheme to evade its obligations under its existing plan solicitation."

The SEC said that when PPI came to it in June 2004 for approval of its transfer of assets to Lifetime Phils. Inc., it "did not disclose that the transferring arm is in serious liquidity condition."

Neither did it inform the commission of its intention to file the petition for rehabilitation now before the court.

The Inquirer has also learned that in early to mid-2004, PPI had applied for the transfer of assets to Lifetime Phils. Inc., if

Annika leads; Jenny 13 down

KOHEMTSUH

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia... Four weeks after falling to rookie LPGA Tour hotshot Ji-yai Shin in a playoff in Arizona, Annika Sorenstam is running away from a strong field at the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship.

The world's No. 1 player shot a dazzling 6-under 64 during Friday's second round at Eagle Landing Country Club, going for a 36-hole lead without throughout the tournament.

Defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines, only two shots off the lead after the first day, struggled with a 76 and was 13 strokes behind Sorenstam.

It's the biggest 36-hole lead in a four-round event since Sorenstam's 10-st the 2001 Standard Register Ping in Arizona gave her an eight-stroke cushion. She held onto a two-stroke victory.

So far, there's no indication that anyone can get close to Sorenstam in the event. Her closest competitor is Rosales, who is considerably the third-best player in the field. She is 12 strokes behind Sorenstam.

Sorenstam has yet to make a bogey, leaving everyone else in the field that in. Under 92 of the top 100 money winners from 2004 are ranked behind Sorenstam. Nine-time Sorenstam, who is 12 strokes behind Sorenstam.

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Wang paces Macau Open; Miñoza 10 off

MACAO—Taiwanese veteran Pung Tze-shang carded a 4-under par 67 Saturday to take a one-stroke lead heading into the final round of the Macau Open.

Edward Jose with six successful up-and-down saves.

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Filipino Frankie Minoza shot a 73 for a 212 total that left him six strokes behind Sorenstam.

AP

After seven Tiger misse

Streak ends with heartbr

IRVING, Texas—Tiger Woods studied the line from both directions, unsatisfied his caddie, then settled in over a 15-foot par putt on the final hole that was packed with the quiet tension normally found in a playoff or a major championship.

It was only a Friday in the first Nissan Open of the year, but Woods was fighting to make the cut for the first time in his 10 years on tour since the 1997 Canadian Open at Royal Montreal.

Some 13 hits the 22-year-old rookie who turned pro before he left high school, should be just passing Woods' five Phoenix 267, atop the leaderboard at 9-under 131.

Vijay Singh, who likely will return to No. 1 in the world next week, had a 67 and tied Mickelson short one to remain three shots behind. Jason Bohn shot a 68 to join Mickelson and Singh at 9-under 136.

He now has the longest active streak of non-20

The longest active streak in golf belongs to Annika Sorenstam at 40 on the LPGA Tour.

"I've got about a hundred to go," Sorenstam said from Atlanta. "When I get out, especially with the conquest time on the PGA Tour. It's not bad to see such a great run finished."

Purdzelik's win not only fitting for the sealed Woods' record streak came at the tournament. Jesse Sekon for years held the record, 113 consecutive cuts during the 1940s. Woods broke that r

The letter

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

"Palabra de honor" was a theme in the talk in the office days because people back then were not only good at listening, they were also good at not forgetting what they heard. They treasured honor, every word said to them. They handed an agreement down to the last "word." To forget what has been said was then tantamount to a dishonor to the family name. One actuall of sweeping an ink stand would eventually consign him to a life of solitude, if not destitute.

But the times, to the words of Bob Dylan, "they are a changin'."

These days, you need to write everything down.

You're dont do it in black and white, you have nothing to produce.

You don't have a document, duly signed, you are as lost as a lettersign a tree.

You don't have the other party's signature in a contract, you hold a piece of paper as useless as a newborn pup.

But then, these days, too, even if you hold a document duly signed by all persons returns to

Wang paces Macau Open; Miñoza 10 off

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AP

Bikathon to promote sports tourism

THE SUNRISE Cordero Tour has earned a prestigious backer to Tuesday and will also pitch in to the promotion of sports tourism in the event set May 26 to June 5.

Mr. El Secretary Ricardo Gloria, Tourism, will cover more than 1,000 kms from down south to Luzon City to up north in Santiago each 15 pm.

And to truly celebrate the Bikini Touch's golden anniversary, the major names, led by Dra. Fe Barbers Pan gan, and Phil. Tourism and Development Corp's Patrick Gregorio will honor the country's cycling greats.

The Right Stuff: Mia Bautista (c) Lauren Ely Vol. 200, Armani Ave. c. 4(1), Hugo D. Ray (2) Lauren Ely to Tagaytay Ely Vol. 1000,

years, es cut

reaking putt

Roger Woods looks sick his record weekend appearances, a record many feel will never be broken. —

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gatmaitan

Turmoil in Uzbek town leaves 200 dead

ANDIJAN, Uzbekistan—Residents in the Uzbek city of Andijan said Saturday they had seen as many as 200 people killed in a crackdown by security forces against armed rebels and crowds of protesters.

"I have seen 200 bodies. It's a real war," Abdul-Vakhid Gaziyev said.

Another resident, who only gave his first name, Bakhodir, claimed to have seen more than 300 bodies near the mayor's office. "Everything is covered in blood," he said.

The reports could not be independently confirmed and access to the main hospital was limited by armed guards.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted the head of an Uzbek human rights group, Abdurasulov, as saying that the soldiers had stopped not more members of Andijan's muslim.

"This morning, it [here] the bodies of the dead were taken out in five vehicles—three ZIL trucks, one Ural and one bus. They were all full with bodies," Nadezhdakhon Eshonkhonov said.

An AFP team estimated that 20 to 30 bodies of men, both young and old, lying near each other outside a cinema in the center and another 20 bodies covered in sheets on the main square.

Earlier a doctor at Andijan's central hospital said "there are at least 50 dead" and 96 wounded.

A crowd of up 2,000 people gathered in the center of Andijan on Saturday a day after troops fired on protesters and rebels, killing dozens, a pro-opposition reporter said.

Amid fears of more bloodshed, security sources gave hospitals just minutes to leave the city, saying they could not vouch for their safety in the town in the east of the Ferghana Valley, seen as a hotbed of Muslim extremism by the government.

The protesters, some of them calling for long-serving President Islam Karimov to stand down, had gathered on Friday after the rebels freed inmates from a local prison, including 23 businessmen on trial on religious extremism charges.

Akmal Nikoyevich, a reporter for the pro-opposition website www.ferghana.ru, said by telephone from the town square, where rebels had seized a government building, that he could see dozens of corpses.

The violence in Uzbekistan follows unrest in neighboring Kyrgyzstan where violent protests—which started in the town of Osh just across the border from Andijan—led to the ousting of President Askar Akayev, who fled to Moscow.

In the past 19 months, there have also been "bloodless revolutions" in two other ex-Soviet republics, Ukraine and Georgia, both of which installed Western-leaning leaders.

General Amin Inadeni have started by changing down further on dissent.

Using Monday Bishkek's forces surrounded to Tashkent, assigned after accusing Britain and the United States of using intelligence gained under torture to Uzbek jails. He said he feared more violence in Andijan on Saturday.

"Repression is basically the policy of the Uzbek government and this will be quite heavily suppressed, I fear," he told BBC World television.

There were also signs of trouble spreading through the densely populated Ferghana Valley home to nearly a quarter of all Uzbeks, as 500 refugees fled across the closed border to Kyrgyzstan, a Kyrgyzstan border guard spokesperson said.

Uzbekistan, a General Amin country bordering Afghanistan, offered the United States use of a military air base after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on US cities and has become an ally in Washington's war on terrorism.

The country is one of the world's leading cotton exporters, is a gold producer, and has some oil and gas reserves. But it has detailed investment and has become an ally in Washington's war on terrorism.

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The West has criticized Karimov, in power since 1989, when Uzbekistan was a Soviet republic, for human rights abuses. AFP, Reuters

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Pope opens sainthood process for John Paul II

ROME—Pope Benedict XVI said he had embarked the next day on the possible sainthood process for Pope John Paul II, overriding the usual five-year waiting period following the death of a candidate before beatification procedures can begin.

Benedict's quick, flat announcement in Latin during a meeting Friday at the Basilica of St. John Lateran with the Roman clergy, Friday is the anniversary of the 1981 assassination attempt on John Paul in St. Peter's Square at the hands of a Turkish gunman.

The announcement opens the way for the possible beatification and canonization of John Paul, following an investigation into the late pope's life and approval of miracles attributed to him. One miracle is required for John Paul to be beatified, a second one for him to be declared a saint.

Immediately following Pope John Paul's death on April 2, from rooms all over the basilica he has since declared sainted, in his honor, Mass, pilgrims chanted "Santo Subito!" and held up banners saying "Santo Subito!" ("Immediate Sainthood").

Benedict's announcement drew a standing ovation from the Roman priests.

The Pope read a letter in which the official who heads the Sainthood Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, announced that Benedict himself had waived the five-year waiting period for John Paul's possible sainthood once it begins.

"Read now I have a very precious piece of news for you," Benedict said in Italian before reading the letter, which was signed May 9.

Benedict, who had been second, stood up to join the clergy in applauding the major tribute to his predecessor.

John Paul himself lifted the five-year waiting period for the beatification procedures to begin. Cardinal Saraiva, the man who dedicated his life to carrying the faithful's wishes, said the beatification process is over after Mother Teresa's 1997 death. Mother Teresa was beatified in October 2003.

Vatican officials said Benedict's announcement expresses such the first-year wait without reservations, but given no hint who pope for John Paul's possible beatification and does not do away with requirements including the investigation of the late pope's life and the approval of a miracle.

Monsignor Claudio Gugerotti, the official who is responsible for actually watching John Paul's beatification cause, said in an interview Friday that the process of gathering documents and testimony has already begun, but that he hoped to start it "as soon as possible."

"But things have to be done well. They can't be rushed through," said Bello, who as the judicial vicar for the diocese of Rome is responsible for launching beatification processes for popes.

He called Benedict's announcement "wonderful," and suggested approving a miracle wouldn't present too difficult.

"Certainly he had many gifts, and he touched so many people," he said. "Even the conversion of one person is a miracle."

Following John Paul's death, Italian newspapers were rife with reports of alleged miracles attributed to him. But the reports stemmed from unexplainable cures that occurred while John Paul was still alive, while according to Vatican procedures, a miracle has to have occurred after John Paul's death for it to be considered in the court-ruling process.

The Rev. Slawomir Oder, a priest who is postulator for the beatification cause for another pope, Pius IX, said Friday that it would still be several years before John Paul could possibly be beatified. AP

PICTURE shared Oct. 16, 2003 shows Pope John Paul II (right) saluting cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, at the Vatican audience hall. AP

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Protests spread across Muslim world over Koran

BAGHDAD—Angry protests raged across the Muslim world from Indonesia to Gaza on Friday over a report that US interrogators in Guantanamo Bay had desecrated the Koran, with calls for retaliation and a rising death toll.

In Afghanistan, at least nine people were killed on Friday in protests over the report brought the country's death toll in riots that week to 16 over anti-American demonstrations since the fall of the Taliban.

Washington sought to stem Muslim anger as cities demanded investigations and thousands took to the streets in outrage over the Newsweek magazine report that interrogators at the US military prison in Cuba had put the Muslim holy book on a toilet seat at least once flushed it down.

The unrest spread to Pakistan, which called for a US probe. Hundreds of people held a peaceful protest in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

In Gaza, several thousand Palestinians marched through a refugee camp in a protest organized by the Islamic militant group Hamas. Several hundred Palestinians also marched in the West Bank city of Hebron.

"The Holy Koran was defiled by the dirtiest of hands, by American hands," a protester shouted at the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, where US and Israeli flags were also burned.

The escalating violence prompted the Bush administration to organize sympathy with the demonstrations and urge calm.

"We want Muslims around the world to know that we share and condemned the outrage that they have. We are also saddened about the loss of life because of these demonstrations turning violent," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

The Department of Defense is investigating the allegation and "they take such allegations very seriously," he said, but did not say what the investigation would be completed.

"... We will not take on one developer for the holy Koran," he added.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had also urged Muslims on Thursday to wait calm for evidence, saying US military authorities were investigating the Koran allegations and calling disrespect to the holy book "abhorrent to us all."

Muslims consider the Koran the literal word of God, treating each book with deep reverence, and the episodes has underscored the United States, which has sought closer ties with Muslim allies in the war on terror. Reuters

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, desecration of the Koran is punishable by death. Reuters

WorldBriefs

Drone plane kills terrorist

ISLAMABAD—An al-Qaeda leader from Pakistan killed this week in a missile fired by an unmanned CIA Predator plane in a mountain region of Pakistan close to the border with Afghanistan, US media reported Friday. Hamza al-Zamar, who had been under surveillance by the CIA, died in a Hellfire missile fired from the Predator, The Washington Post reported. Zamar, an Egyptian believed to be a senior lieutenant of Osama bin Laden, was the second-highest ranking al-Qaeda member killed in the past 11 days. AP

Bird flu in pigs

BANGKOK—Indonesian researchers have found evidence of bird flu in pigs on the densely populated island of Java, raising fears that the virus could more easily spread to humans in the country, the government said. Scientists said they do not know whether the virus has infected the Java pigs. AP

NCR, Calabarzon grab Palaro titles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BAGUIO CITY—Elite personnel points coming from basketball following solid performance in swimming and net sillers from all over the Big Central Luzon Region captured the secondary overall championship for the first time in this edition yesterday even as Calabarzon ran away with the elementary title of the Palarong Rehiyon.

San Beda College won the secondary basketball title for the Big City squad with an 80-57 rout of Central Visayas that ended the tourney for NCR.

"We really prepared long and hard for this," said Sandbeda head coach Art Bandalan after the reigning PBAA junior champ boosted NCR's overall total to 11.5 points.

Calabarzon, fostered by victories in boys' athletics, baseball, boys' swimming and boys' volleyball, won the secondary championship in the elementary division with 235 points, a feat it last achieved in 1999 in Bacolod when it was still part of northeastern Southern Tagalog.

Western Visayas, although beaten by NCR in the basketball semifinals last Friday, gained a measure of pride after left winger Jesse Gabriel

CENTRAL Visayas' Julius Cainco and Christopher Samolang put up a right defense on NCR's Jh Tagaysa.

hit a penalty kick in the 54th minute to edge NCR for the secondary football title, 1-0, in a game that brought the curtain-down on the Palaro at the Baliti Sports Complex here.

The football victory boosted NCR to second place in the high school division with 207 points. CALABARZON finished fifth (186.5) followed by Cordillera (182.5) and Central Luzon (93).

Team Iguana, Edge on top

By Jasmine M. Paje

ALAMINOS—Jousting on smarts and luck, Team Iguana regained a piece of the lead with Team Edge on Day 7 of the Lifestyle Studio Adventure Tour in Benguet's famous Hundred Islands Park here.

After slipping to second place in the previous stage, Iguana's Andrew Chiongbian, Jr., Orville Bacquian and Dennis Ann recovered by outwitting fewer points, while Edge's Hussey Jopson, Mito Amacquan and Quintin Alcon Balcha-Orilla no doubled in both teams floated their haul with 14 points.

Team Iguana suffered a big blow on Day 6 after race officials slapped it with 15 demerit points for violating traffic rules in Virgin City, Ilocos Sur.

"It's all part of the game," said Bacquian after Team Iguana arrived at the pit stop first in its orange Nissan Frontier. "But we're up big so the most contributors."

Beach Volley starts at Clearwater

ANGELES CITY—The second leg of the 2005 Shakey's Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament comes of the stops at the Clearwater Country Club here today.

"We hoped had the maximum of the sport, which is recently enjoying a tremendous following especially this summer," coach organizer Tobby Alcuaz. "I'm elated to see that our efforts are not going down the drain."

Clearwater Country Club president and CEO Dino Sison will make the ceremonial serve. He will be assisted by Cha-Cha Tuplang of Ferrari, and Benny Bacani of Apostle. A P10,000 top purse awaits the winners of the second leg.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Higher-education lows

EDITORIAL

THE RESIGNATION of the Dominican educator, Fr. Rolando V. De la Rosa, O.P., as chair of the Commission on Higher Education shows how the tentacles of petty politics and nepotism have muddled higher education, shaking it of the freedom striving toward excellence, pulling it down to the level of the unfeeling, the mediocre and the mercenaries.

Father De la Rosa resigned after failing to get the support of Malacañang and Congress to reform the education system. Instead of backing the Commission's crackdown on substandard nursing schools, several representatives, led by Rep. Cynthia Villar (Las Piñas), the chair of the House committee on education, pressured him to reopen 23 nursing schools across the country. The schools had been ordered closed for poor performance in board examinations and for failing to comply with the minimum requirement to have a basic tertiary hospital where students could have hands-on training.

In meetings with the Villars—whose husband, Sen. Manny Villar, has presidential ambitions—hardly shrouded the comportment of a legislator, much less of an educated woman, in demanding that the closure orders be lifted. When her group of lawmakers was informed that the campaign against poor performing nursing schools is mandated by the Nursing Law which Congress had passed only two years ago, the lawmaker shamelessly exclaimed, "Then, let us abolish that law!"

If De la Rosa had expected he would get support from Malacañang against such pack of malevolence and "trial-and-error" lawmakers, he was wrong. The AMA computer school closed off the closure of its nursing school by going to Malacañang, where it got an order directing De la Rosa and his commissioners to explain the closure. In effect, Malacañang rebuffed the CHED and saved the schools.

How computer and nursing schools have achieved political clout despite their poor performance in electronic communications engineering and in nursing board exams should show how educational franchises and profit-oriented schools have built up their resources by packing their classrooms with enrollees, without the least provision for student selectivity and quality standard—indeed, without the least investment in campus infrastructure and pedagogical facilities. Some schools appears to have greased up their position by getting cozy with politicians in Congress and Malacañang.

It is these same politicians who have made a merry carnage industry out of establishing state colleges and universities (SCUs) and local colleges and universities (LCUs). The proliferation of these SCUs and LCUs has invited a comment from the British Council that the Philippines has too many colleges and universities. While it is true that these schools provide people greater access to education, the truth is that many SCUs and LCUs have been established to cash in on public-works funds.

These colleges and universities are also packed with political appointees that have made them dens of nepotism. Moreover, these schools have charters created by law so that they can insist that their programs are beyond the supervision of CHED. Sen. Juan Flavier has called for a moratorium on the establishment of more SCUs and LCUs, but the organization of De la Rosa should indicate that not politicians should continue to set up schools for parochial interests and self-aggrandizement.

What picture are we getting here? Politics is destroying higher education. Politicians and bureaucrats have already destroyed basic education—that is obvious in the annual litany of class-opening problems, such as the lack of teachers, classrooms and books, which provide party politicos and greedy bureaucrats with the alibi to dip into the public coffers and spend resources, leaving them enough room for kickbacks. The state of affairs has perennially saddled our basic education with issues of quantity, not quality, so that we are producing graduates who hardly have the rudimentary qualifications for college.

Now politicians and bureaucrats are set to complete the sweep. After destroying basic education, they seek to infect higher education with the virus of commercialism and academic philistinism. Father De la Rosa, a former rector magnificus of the University of Sto. Tomas and Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Calamba, saw the writing on the wall and would have none of it. He said he would rather go back to his "priestly and religious duties" than compromise his principles as an educator and an academic manager. Perhaps, back in the peace of his Dominican monastery he could pray and exercise the demons of politics and greed that are killing Philippine higher education.

'Lupang Hinirang'

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

MY SON Cobo refused to use a disturbing vacation three hot 4th nights to be separated in this country. I am reporting a new idea to the effect it will also disturb readers like you with whom, I am sure, we share a social tolerance.

On April 26, he and his wife Alma went to the Ben-Hur Shop in Pasadena. As it was still closed in the store, they waited in the adjacent cafeteria where a number of people were also waiting. At 8:45 a.m., the public address system announced that the National Anthem was going to be played before the opening of the store. Dutifully, and out of respect for the solemn words, Cobo and Alma stood up, expecting others to do the same.

Surprisingly, however, no one else did. Some thirty of the waiting people remained seated and many of them continued eating. They showed with each other how they do not even bother to sing. The customary nuance demonstrated by them was a lack

The AFP—an intensive care patient

REVEILLE

Raissa J. Jurado

WHEN a patient is admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of any hospital, it could mean that his or her condition requires close and constant supervision by medical personnel on a 24-hour basis. He can be cooled also for recuperating from major surgery as I had experienced after a heart bypass operation many years ago. Being confined in an ICU, however, is the last scenario of the problem being faced by an individual.

Last week, Time magazine came out with a special report on the famed Graves of the Philippines, written by Time executive editor Jerry Hicks, Anthony Spaeth (Manila bureau chief), correspondents Joann D. Kennedy and Nelly Sindayen), the article notes that "the Philippine military, fighting low morale, poor equipment and ruthless militancy," is badly in need of reforms. Otherwise, it will continue to lose and scrape bloc by with the armed forces. It is a depressing and disheartening narrative. Unfortunately, much of what is written there cannot be disputed and, perhaps, even more pathetic is the fact that some of the difficulties that beset the military are not new. Some of them have been there for as long as I can remember. Others are the result of a political leadership which failed or refused to appreciate the importance of simple management principles in the exercise of authority over the institution.

There's no less than "Uncle Sucked and Brotherly-ish"—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at on her hand-feed of staff in four years—the AFP are wanting at less than 50 percent of their capacity, according to Defense Secretary Antonio Cruz. As we all know, just before the last elections, the AFP underwent [illegible] change-of-command ceremonies installing chiefs of staff, one after another, with some serving for as short as three months in a revolving door scenario. For candidate GMA, the year of chief of staff was apparently sent to be a political necessity in order to shore up the professional forces and operational effectiveness of the armed forces. Sens ensued, we will again think of the serious defense committees, along with Nick Gordon and others.

Now the SAF is with the House defense committee led by Rep. Boy Eslea. Let us hope that he can push through with the necessary action to get it on the President's desk for signature before the time of staff appointments commences.

The Time report highlighted many ills which he regal death of Lt. Colonel Ocinio Villanueva, the commander of the 1021st Infantry battalion, Philippine Army, who was hit by enemy mortar fire in Jolo last February. It raises the question whether the service life-saving medical wonders for the officer or "did Villanueva die because he failed to receive timely medical treatment?"

There are several opinions on this issue. The AFP has one, Villanueva's widow has another, and a battlefield buddy of Villanueva has his own version of what happened.

Time says, "Dennis Villanueva's life bled away in the helicopter and in the cockpit that brought him to Sulu Provincial Hospital. He served his country and his military well—both of his brothers have graduated from the Philippine Military Academy, Class of 1986, is the highest ranking AFP officer in the in combat in recent years.

* * *

Congratulations to Col. Jose "Johnny" M. Sanchez (IR, ret.), who recently took his oath of office after being declared winner of the May 2000 mayoral elections in Lubang, Occidental Mindoro. Sanchez is a member of PMA Class of 1956. Unlike other office-seekers whose election returns are still languishing in the canvass and in the Commission on Elections, Johnny can move him self among the honorees whose election was formalized before the expiration of his three-year term. He was the founding managing director of the Philippine Veterans Bank. Good luck and success to you, Col. Jonathan, as the executive secretary to the President on information technology.

The 'M.D.-R.N. phenomenon'

MEDICINE is now becoming a re-nursing course, giving rise to a new hybrid of professionals—the "M.D.-R.N." However, this is old news, to the headliners for years.

What's new for Filipino-Americans? Are the present circumstances in our country's health is justifiable for some of our immigrants to embark on the nursing profession? The financial factor continues to be the primary reason for the so-called "M.D.-R.N." phenomenon. Data from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics reveal that the average Filipino physician earns only an annual income of $32,000 to $35,000 (P835,347.75 @ P26.10:46 monthly). The income that doctors are also going through hard times in these days of crisis. The government's own economic office estimates that a monthly income of P75,000 is needed to meet the daily basic needs for a family of six in Metro Manila.

In the early years, many doctors in a group that makes money easily, traffic prone universities, health care-threatened accumulation fees, the sure-year wait for paychecks, local hospital policies, professional jealousy easily top in medical hospitals, and the looming threat of a malpractice law (proposals: the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration participants: the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration is in favor of the same just as became an active consultant in major hospitals. A new young doctor cannot afford this unless he was born to wealthy parents or married to a rich spouse. And this is unfortunate because the people in need are the "patients" la mey."

The rapid decline in the number of medical school applicants and the shortage of training residents in hospitals are enormous to the youth's dwindling confidence in our profession. Malpractice bills filed in the Senate, if approved, would further erode the credibility of the profession with the government's own statistics that in 1720 (filed by Sen. Serge Osmeña III) and SB 743 (filed by Sen. Manuel Villar) aim to criminalize medical malpractice, including minor, unintentional injuries committed by physicians. Both bills intend to punish erring doctors with prison major (a prison term of one to 12 years), cancellation of the medical license, and exemplary damages of P200,000 to 1,000,000.

Surprisingly, the proposed penalties are harsher than those prescribed for criminals guilty of treason, rebellion, and other assault. Moreover, the proposed prison term is equivalent to the punishment meted out to individuals guilty of homicide or murder. The passage of the malpractice laws would put doctors convicted of malpractice in the same league as criminals, terrorists and murderers.

If enacted into a law, doctors would return to the practice of "defensive medicine," which would result in the destruction of the doctor-patient trust. Physicians would be required to obtain medical malpractice insurance of no less than P50,000, which most likely would just be passed on to patients.

On the other hand, parents and their families would be encouraged in the anti-against doctors the possible quack ill-trained patients in our society. Even those with no malpractice wrongdoing has been convicted by the physician. Furthermore, a person unfairly granted by the justice or his family would not be a legal impediment to the prosecution of the "crime." In the end, insurance companies would be the biggest beneficiaries of the malpractice laws.

Even without the malpractice law, doctors already face another kind of threat in the form of lifestyle checks and vice violation cases. The Bureau of Internal Revenue is under tremendous pressure to collect more taxes because of the government's budget deficit. Still unanswered is Estrea's letter that it would conduct lifestyle checks on doctors because it really revealed a high level of tax delinquency among physicians. Former finance Secretary and Senator Pro Tem Jesse Jesse Robredo supports such a move and thinks it's long overdue. Ironically, he finds himself on the other side of the fence. As the Senate's point man on the tax reform proposal concerning their assets and net worth, in terms of vehicles, real estate, their expenditures, memberships in sports clubs, and the schools where their children study.

But why are doctors singled out before lawyers, accountants, and most accused? With a few exceptions, doctors as a group are not to be found in the ranks of the country's richest persons appearing on annual lists. This is the sad reality of the typical personality that strikes and survives in medical school and residency training. Unfortunately, it is the same attitude that makes doctors perfect targets for the BIR.

As a final thought, is the present situation of physicians a recently associated with the political instability and economy of our nations. Is our country different than compared to five years ago? The recent elections did not achieve the stability and unity that we had hoped for. Assuming on a GMA survey conducted last year, 56 percent of Filipinos believed the Philippine situation was the predominant. High unemployment rate, low salaries, and corruption in the government remain, or in plague Philippine society. The country is bankrupt and it is a fiscal crisis—as a result of excessive spending during the election campaign, many believe. In response to the fiscal crisis, the government has asked for more VAT law, hoping to raise P86 billion in additional revenues.

Though there is a looming shortage of health professionals due to emigration, the government seems not to be worried about the resultant "brain drain"; after all, it has many health professionals to spare. Even those in the higher levels are contributing to high dollar remittances. Dominating doctors would only be joining the ranks of overseas contract workers, not so-called "heroes of the economy." In fact, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported that overseas workers sent home P8.5 billion last year, the highest level of remittances recorded since 1984. It is not for the overseas workers, our economy would be in much worse shape than it is now.

While the influx of nurses helps to prop up our economy, the depletion of our healthcare, which is already severely affected by poverty, quality of care and mortality may could very well jeopardize our economic development.

We should investigate whether opportunities for professional satisfaction have been thwarted by hierarchy, contentment, and cronyism. Our nation's health programs and the professional interests are co-dependent on the national politics and economy. The issue of upgrading the job market overseas is absolutely moved in our national economy. As long as the monetary remains weak and the government fails to create jobs locally or guarantees just compensation, Filipino workers, doctors and nurses included, will continue to search for a better life overseas. The U.S. H-1B phenomenon is a symptom of a societal disease. And it would not be cure to cure it.

COMMENTARY

Jun R. Ruiz, M.D.

End of a saga

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

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Editor Juan F. Saguisag Jr.

The military in a mismanaged society

THE MILITARY has been in the news the past few weeks. Just before Labor Day, retired Brig. Gen. Honrasmo Alon called for the overthrow of the government and the formation of a transition revolutionary government.

Alon said the "people are becoming victims of misgovernance." Three seven-o'clock boys supported the call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo and "immediate change in the system."

The call for change came as many Filipinos think that the poor will support efforts to overthrow the government to get out of poverty. Efforts to overthrow the government succeeded twice over the past 20 years because of military support.

The last time a group of military officers staged a coup was in 2003. The Magdalo group seized the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments in Makati and died in grievances such as military officials selling firearms to Abu sayyaf commando rebels, and lack of housing and supplies.

After 17 months of court martial, a military tribunal ordered on May 11 the release of 184 soldiers who took part in the coup attempt. Mr. Arroyo called the tribunal's decision "a very good example of justice and reconciliation," a statement interpreted by some as part of her attempts to ward off intra-constitutional threats.

But the assurance to the soldiers—democracy by those ranks, forbearance of two-thirds of their basic salaries for three to six months, and reinstatement with hard labor for a year (which they had already served)—shows that soldiers who staged a coup are rarely punished severely in the country.

The tribunal's decision may not deter other soldiers from staging a coup as long as their grievances are not addressed.

A former national security adviser says that a reforming military poses a serious threat to a government, which is unable or unwilling to reform itself.

A reforming AFP poses a threat to a corrupt state

By Jose T. Almonte

Corruption in government is the evident example of the soft(ware) weapons of the enemy—the despoiling of a relatively armed natural resource or institution that provides public goods.

Like the proverbial village pastor, the military enjoys the confidence of the people. In one, he dies, just as the local chaplain will read or interpret the public pronouncements, so will officials tend to dip into the public treasury—confident that no one really cares deeply enough about public funds which are not theirs to utilize.

Just as materially-human nature would benefit if government were better run, nothing much is done about poorly run governments—most people choosing (reasonably) to "free ride" on the civic efforts of the more militant minority, who cause less the grievances of political and bureaucratic reform.

But most societies try to insulate their military functions from corruption. Corruption is, therefore, common in both mature and developing states. Because no coup or military revolt prevents a mortal danger to the State, political institutions throughout history have arisen to insulate the military institution from temptation by "professionalizing" the officer corps.

Democracies in particular try to instill in their military officers the sense that they have a "higher calling" to the service of society.

Privileged

The professional training that officers receive combines these—in regions in the management of violence—to expand themselves, in a sense set apart from ordinary people.

Their corporate heritages imbued by the loyalty and interest training thus officers more endorse, and the rigor of the discipline to which they must submit themselves strengthen their esprit.

Their sense of corporate identity is inverted, the military (to the layman) killed in Mt Cho has inherited a "subordinated to politicians, yet spiritual, armed or unarmed, all powerful yet powerless."

In the "new" countries, however, more than anywhere else, officer professionalism in Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Soviet, in most it was started not as nationalist soldier fighting wars of independence and politics themselves. In Burma and in Thailand, generals have ruled their countries for the greater part of the last 70 years.

In the Philippines, the Aguinaldo and Arroyo administrations rose to power on the back of military and internal police support.

In all these places, the officer corps is predisposed and trained to draw new prerogatives and roles from "civilian" society. In Thailand and in China (until fairly recently), the armed forces are authorized to run businesses, as part of the practice of "off-budget financing."

The previously best-trained troops (occasionally) or military expenditures the government cannot provide. In practice, a great deal such spin private profits.

Conversion

Democratization in the armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) seems just and part of our colonial precursors. In this setting, noted Arthur becomes common, place because of the weakening, if not abolition, of the civilian.

Then also, the problem of corruption in our armed forces is not another replay of the tragedy of the commons. Poorly paid military officers have usually devised authority over a piece of public treasure.

The AFP budget of some P45 billion this year is the largest single government budget allocation. The AFP comptroller who, in practice, disposes of this money typically has a relatively generous down-station (P25,000 a month. Commonly, the deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J8) also enjoys much money in unvouched auditing.

Meanwhile, the practice of "conversion" allows the manufacturers of allowed AFP funds more cash for officers' expenditures.

Conversion is often done in "collusion with suppliers, and some of the officers involved under procurement powers as an AFP unit," according to the Fabian Commission, find "it appears ... that the practice ... is commonplace ... in the military under AFP."

Such officers like a particular arm or acquisition of particular equipment ... wind up being used for other purposes—or wind up in a depressed bank account of the commander of an AFP unit receiving inconvenience.

A "comptroller family" of some 50 officers, made up of regulars in conversion, preparer and then handles preparation and also eventually audits the military budget.

Parting pressure

In keeping with the historical spirit in allied nation officers corps, these comptrollers apparently took other high-ranking officers. For instance, creating chaos of self-appointed service parting pressure of quite large sums. Such officers going through the training, and field units celebrating milestones in their respective units.

In the course of these philanthropic activities, the comptroller family apparently never forgets the labors these close to beginning at home Major Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.), who was deputy chief of staffs a comptrollership, accused of bribery in South Korea, millions in AFP funds may be private accounts. And his predecessor seems to have bankrolled his own retirement nest with at least P50 million worth of property here and abroad.

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Fixed tenure

Some suggest a reform of the Philippine Military Academy curriculum, or the abolition of the PMA altogether. This is a deliberate idea. A school cannot be held responsible for the moral failures of some of its graduates decades after their graduation.

The first and the recent reform should be to establish a fixed and secure tenure for the chief of staff.

Already, bills have been filed in Congress proposing that the chief of staff be given a three-year term, which may extend beyond the fixed retirement date for military and security officers (their Malacañang).

Some legalists think the President can carry out this reform through a simple executive order. If that is so, then President Macapagal-Arroyo should do it now.

After all, it is her overriding democratic objective in the office—in her efforts to get rid [illegible] officers—her chief, in effect, silenced the comptroller family that [illegible] AFP officers to secure posts.

Another source of abuse is the Philippine Defense Reform (PDR), which is a broad strategic program to carry out long-term, systemic changes in how the AFP and the Department of Defense. PDR is the product of a continuing joint defense assessment by the Philippines and its American strategic partner.

The basic needs to focus the AFP on planning, which links total force level requirements budget allocations to a coherent and achievable longer-run to defense strategy.

Dilemma

Of all institutions in the new country, the military is commonly the best organized, the most newly-raised, the most disciplined, and the most ready-for. Hence, it becomes, in most cases, a major player in post-independence politics.

In the interest of the military, stained by the opposition, the Americans and the Church, was running into national politics as early as the 1950s when it planned its intervention in the election between an unpopular President Elpidio Quirino and his popular defense minister Ramon Magsaysay.

But a non-President Ferdinand Marcos who thoroughly politicized this officer corps. After having cultivated the primacy until and the regional commanders, he in June 1972 dismissed Congress and the media, in total all his political enemies and ruled as strongman.

Over the next decade, Marcos made the layer of military institutions by corrupting key officers' careers and minds with unprecedented privileges, and prospects. But, of course, even Marcos found it impossible to prevent efforts to the military on his side. A few of these dissidents eventually ended up the "people power" revolution that drove him into exile.

Grave danger

A reforming AFP will present a grave danger to a mismanaged Philippine State. The AFP in our time has assumed a chief function: the preservation of democracy and the fallible individuals who compose it. I have no doubt it will redeem itself.

Its present ably powerful to the military in relation to the larger civilian society, then the quality of its recruitment must remain to be.

And a mismanaged country like ours have a dilemma in deciding with its internal and external problem institutions.

The dilemma for our mismanaged country is a plain example. If the military should reform the corruption and incompetence in its social society, then the military will aggravate this corruption and incompetence because other institutions of civilian people.

Take-over

But if, on the other hand, the military remains professional in a time but by corruption and incompetent politicians, then this professional military will venture to take over. Its internal hygiene demand so take over such a mismanaged society.

Ironically, a reforming AFP could present a second danger to a Philippine State, which is unable or unwilling to reform itself.

The first of this danger should [illegible] upon a wider civilian movement in the Philippine State.

The duty of the soldier is to follow the order the political leaders had to, in 1986 or in the other, to the people regime of the 2001 that it becomes the soldier's obligation to already move the people.

But some cannot always be resolving their problems with "people power." For since Ferdinand Marcos, the political cycle before it gets out of control and create national society to implode.

This is why we must ensure that the civilian movement in the armed forces to create a situation in which the military is the whole of the Philippine State. This is why we must level the playing field of engineer so that a free national election can begin to reform and problems.

This is why we must level the playing field of our politics so that it can begin to be for national democracy to progress.

Because only a reformed, democratic politics can give direction and civic direction to the modern, the military and the whole of society.

Almonte, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (1958), was a secretary of national defense (Feb. 1986 to 1988).

Officers in the news

- Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, ex-comptroller
- Dismissed with a P200-million plunder case in the Ombudsman's office
- Detained in prison on April 3
- Court-martialed for violations of articles of the 96 accused soldiers during coup officer and superintendent cited 4th class of the 96 that acquitted the government.

- Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, ex-comptroller
- Charged with P50 million plunder case by anti-graft ombudsman prosecutor Dante Jimenez filed in 2004 before the Sandiganbayan on April 17.
- Charged before the Ombudsman with unexplained wealth (PNB) million and car buy for failure to declare his true statement of assets and liabilities

- Lt. Col. George Balanza, ex-chief of AFP's Budget Division
- Faces a P50-million plunder case filed by the Ombudsman on April 22.
- Charged with graft before the Ombudsman for allegedly supporting over P100 million worth of assets.

- Brig. Gen. Prospero Olaguer, ex-commander of 4th Force Civilian Component Battalion (Philcag)
- One gun-toting [illegible] before the Ombudsman in Baguio charged with [illegible] "illicit connections" in the military. He supposedly [illegible] a defense contractor of P1.3 million in 2002.

- Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores, ex-chief of the Logistics Supply Command
- Detained from major general to colonel after it was discovered he had about two age [illegible] reinstated to March 2002.

- Rear Adm. Antonio Tan, ex-Navy vice commander
- Accused of accounting millions of pesos from illegal transactions he entered into with [illegible] of the Navy.

- Lt. Col. Oscar Pahadi Dupilas, head of the Navy's engineering unit
- Court-charged for allegedly operating with [illegible] while conducting hiring and "intentionally cheated the government by [illegible]

- Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ermita, ex-commander of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom)
- Faces a P50-million plunder case filed by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo on April 22.
- Charged with graft before the Ombudsman for allegedly receiving kickbacks from [illegible] during his command of Nolcom in 2003 and 2004.

- Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, ex-AFP chief
- Faces graft charges due to allegations he violated P5-million received for the repair of warehousing post in Camp Aguinaldo.

Compiled by Melchor Tamayo, INQ Research

Sound Offer galloper to beat today

By Edwin Villanueva, Correspondent

SOUND Offer may not be convincing in her previous runs. Never the less, she will make the galloper to beat in the second leg of the 2005 Imperial Stakes series today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The 5-year-old bay mare from Australia who happens to be a daughter of 1998 Kentucky Derby champion Thunder Gulch has her last two outings but will try to get her rhythm back when she faces seven others in the 1,500-meter contest.

"Hamakua Sonic ng Indiakabayo ipo (Ito ang kabayo ang dapat talunin)," said jockey Eldy Balanday.

Sound Offer nailed her biggest win when she humbled Solar Bound in the second leg of the Santa Ana Championship (March 6), two weeks after placing second to Great Unbridled in "Buenos Para sa Puso."

Jubilado picked Queen Beethoven and Runaway Lass as their most dangerous rivals for the P35,000 five-pete weighted by the Philracom. Completing the cast are Rapperoni (Sam Aclibel), Heroic Dancer and Glory Ahgil and Invisible (Mahmud Hamman Sky).

Sportswatch

DELO 4x4 Series up

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the Delo 4Ton 2005 DELO Sports National 4x4 Series kicks off at the Dolomon Race Track, San Antonio, Silvan, Metro Sumaguete City today. The 4-wheel-drive race is expected to provide the biggest test to the competitors, led by last year's 5th Finisher of the Year, Rolando Gamponan and first leg winner Albert Monte de Ramos. Sanctioned by the Philippine Association of Motor Sk Powders (PAM SP), the three-day national 4x4 meet is hosted by the 4x4 Sumaguete Fun Club, headed by Jessy Hontiveros, and backed by Cotton DELO Sports.

Title fight in Pistorama

DARUNDRE Pistorama fistmen today, the Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation's super-featherweight title fight between Filipino champion Ronald "Dodie" Pinto and challenger Mangkalakid Kumsichan. The bout was held two weeks ago at the Cebu Cebu Sports Complex in Cebu in a fight card promoted by Rex "Wakas" Salud. Sponsors for Pistorama, supported by Samsung, Tanduay, PCSO and Milpmen, is aired on 5 p.m., Sundays on IBC-13.

Kiwanis holds golf tilt

THE KIWANIS club of Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan invitational golf tournament will be held at North Woods Golf & Country Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, on May 20. This event will be for the benefit of the basic fundraising project of Dasmariñas Charity for Integrity. call 8343330 or 09175253838 and look for Cesar Cruz.

adidas Streetball regional

12 NCR basketball action heats up in Baguio today as eight teams clashed in the 1 conference of the 12th adidas Streetball Challenge at SM Baguio. Pampanga's Holy Angel University hosts the field with its Team Barracks and Team Mbabo all set to strut their stuffs against equally talented rivals. The Holy Angel U cagers owned the sessions and girls division of the Pampanga clime to join the winners of the other qualifiers in Naga, Lipa and Baguio.

Daymels cop titles

DAVAO CITY and Koronadal Esperial turned the 2005 Davao Regional Badminton Championships into a family affair when they swept the singles crowns in the elite division of the Wheels and Mini-Drive in Bajada, Davao City last Friday. Daviden Rivarolet Jovelyn Caballero, 11-9, 11-6, in the ladies finals while Ronald conceded over Julius Magdalena, 11-10, 11-7, in the men's side. Julie Ignacio and Nestor Sabad won in the juniors side with Christian leading Shaina Sucro, 11-3, 4-11, 11-6, for the girls crown and Sabad barring brother Joseph, 11-14, 11-10, to cop the boys title.

Central gallest tomorrow

THE 36-hole intervillage golf series enters up its first round eliminations at The Manor's Duques course tomorrow with six teams clashing for three berths in the central sector tournament. Magpanoy bested Bel-Air to top last year's event for all-ages in Makati and Mandaluyong and is favored against the event sponsored by Intercontinental Hotel giant Rockie. Opponent by Fred Rotor, Magpanoy hopes to draw firepower from Emcee Ace Mike Arroz and Tony Miranda.

Superfights 2 returns

THE CYCLING CHAMPIONS' "Superfights 2: Cook the Cop: Fastest Wins" returns at Pasay City Complex on Wednesday with over 250 participants. Sponsors are Sojourner Corporation 2000, Sojourner Mtb Fun and Sojourner 8 MTB riders. PR managers Eric dela Rosa, Rodjhay Obra and Phoenix Enriquez said guaranteed prize is P100,000 for an entry fee of P2,200. The first fight starts @ 7 a.m. For inquiries, contact 840-3080, 843-1140 and 843-6768.

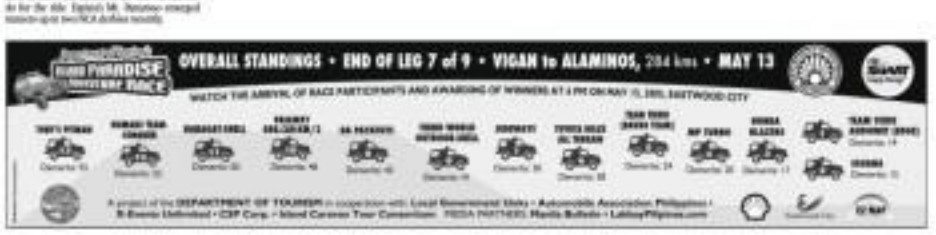
Espina prevails

THE YELLOW JOGGERS Mike Rosenbrook, noted for its blinding speed and powerful wallop, won the crown as pitcher Rey Corey "Boy" Espina is capping the solo championship of the National Cadets Association (NCA) 7 Cook Cup by Thursday night at Araneta Coliseum.

Espina caught everyone by surprise when he limited the imported Mike Rosenbrook attack just one run in the United Stars.

His opponent-entry, Mr. Pinoytoo, handed the spellbinding crowd with a perfect score of three wins, then ranked the top favorites in the finals for a spectacular 7-6 pitch-for-1 bout.

After surviving the rough challenge posed by Bloomingdale Bulldogs of former ambassador Domding Calungsod, Complexus 2000 of solitary idol Patrick Jimenez and Colorado Mulatos of Frankie Ch, Espina's fighter has overcome the Phi-Bil II of 2004 NCA Cookie of the Year Del Rosario for the title. Espina's Mr. Pinoytoo emerged runners-up in two NCA duelists recently.



INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandarvel
Assoc. Ed. Nico A. Alconaba

'We are already eating poison'

LUMAD folk prepare the deadly lupo to relieve them from hunger pangs in Kiabo.

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Resident Reporter, North Cotabato

HAIDI clasped around his chest, Ebdan Manlibo, the leader of a remote Ilonggo (indigenous people) community in President Roxas town in North Cotabato, led the prayer in Manobo before the assembly:

"Our life is full of misery ... grief ... difficulty. What can we do now? We only get you, Mamalu, our God. You alone can help us ... most powerful, great God."

Nearly 300 Manobo families have been experiencing hunger for the past five months in Barangay Lanao-Lanao in President Roxas. Like most of these villages in the town, it was far-flung to reach. Downriver last year.

What used to be green landscape is now cracked earth. The dry spell has meant hunger, and hunger, death.

With local scouts, the residents have been forced to eat the poisonous wild yam called "lupo."

Like cassava, lupo has a high hydrocyanic acid (HCN) content, according to experts at the Central Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (Cimarc).

The HCN is a solution of hydrocyanide gas in liquid form. It is a colorless, highly poisonous, volatile liquid and smells like bitter almonds, according to medical books. Exposure to large amounts to all forms of cyanide, including the HCN, even the weakest ones, can harm the brain, lungs and heart, and can cause coma and death.

The effects are the same for cyanide ester, dyanide, hydrated or hydrocyclic compounds.

The Manobo people are aware that lupo is not actually safe to eat, but Manlibo said they had no choice. "We are already eating poison here," he said.

Another resident, Dionea Mamalay, said he was forced to feed their children lupo than to watch them die of starvation.

"So far, Mamalay said, no one had died from eating lupo."

3 fatalities

But according to a report of the Apo Sandawa Lumadnong Pamaligan sa Cotabato (ASPC), three Ilonggo have died under hunger-related circumstances. One of them succumbed after eating lupo.

At least 80 more, including children, have been poisoned, said Datmar Cagnapan, ASLPC chair.

Cagnapan said natives in Kidapawan City and at least nine of the 17 towns in the province had been forced to eat lupo because of the drought. Aside from President Roxas, the towns are Antipas, Arakan, Magpet, Matalam, Makalam, Midsayap, Pikit, Tulunan.

Lumad residents of Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat are experiencing the same situation.

One villager, Florit Anolo, admitted that several times, she left Kiabo to concentrate the pounding of the root crop. To counter the effects, she said, "we just eat lupo and coconut."

According to medical books, the first symptoms of poisoning are rapid, deep breathing and shortness of breath, followed by convulsions and fainting. In acute cases, death is extremely rapid.

Those exposed to hydrogen cyanide experience asphyxia, weakness, headache, confusion, nausea and vomiting. Primarily affected are the central nervous and cardiovascular systems, liver and kidneys.

Careful preparation

Jose Icombres, senior agriculture research officer of Cimarc, said the lupo should be carefully prepared as an alternative food. Its HCN content can only be reduced but not totally eliminated by repeated soaking of the grated root, he said.

"But from media reports, it appears that the lupo is already said for eating, even after their process ... we actually are currently scientifically studying safe lupo preparation," Icombres said.

Mamalay said the residents were very careful in preparing the crop. They had to slice the crop evenly and soak it in running water for three to five days before drying it under the sun, into for three to five days, he said.

In 1998, most people in the upland areas of North Cotabato, such as the Arakan Valley, were forced to eat the lupo because no other food was available.

But in some areas where the harvest of root crop is not enough, the people have swallowed their superstition to the succulent bulbs of the kalang (gabi variety) and banana stems (ugnay).

"There are not bad for humans. There are small poisons in them," Cagnapan said.

Although on the verge of desperation, the farmers' leave are not lost hope, she said. They have been awaiting immediate help for the authorities to hear them out, but there has been no response to his, she said.

Lack of funds

Cagnapan said the government blamed the lack of funds because the situation despite the fact that the province was already declared under a state of calamity after the mild spell was felt in March.

"They (government officials) just don't seem to care about the plight of the farmers," Cagnapan said.

The provincial board, in a resolution, has placed the province under the calamity state as 14 of its 18 towns have been affected by the dry spell.

In April, the provincial agriculturist's office said at least 22,217 hectares of palay and corn farms have been damaged due to lack of water.

"But if you accomplishing that every time we asked for aid, we were told that there were no funds when the whole province had already been declared under a state of calamity," Cagnapan said.

"I doubt the time when the government starts moving to staff only if it sees more deaths," she added.

Zaida Adilao Pasadas, provincial social welfare officer, said her agency's immediate response to the aids was stalled by the fact that municipal social welfare officers failed to submit documents, including requests for assistance.

Only this month did the social welfare office post to response to address the five-month-old hunger problem. In case other impact or damage assessment reports was submitted by agriculture and social welfare officers in the affected areas.

"If the report] was [meant] to justify that not only are the farmers, as registered in the agriculture office, were affected by the dry spell but also the farm laborers who are among the poorest of the poor," Pasadas said.

The provincial government has already released P1 million for rice procurement. If no dole-outs is has also started.

Across the NATION
Senior Editor: Tony Espiritu

Thousands flee military bombardment

DOING IT YOURSELF
A hands-on way of the Earned Salary Housing Program helps build four homes in the Governor's Notice, Quezon. The project is made possible with the help of Smart Communications Inc. and its volunteer employees. The project seeks to build houses for at least 100 families who lost their homes in landslides and typhoons.

BUTUAN—Thousands of civilians have fled their homes as the military pounded with heavy artillery and aerial bombardment New People's Army (NPA) strongholds in the lush Andap Valley complex in Surigao del Sur.

Lumen Antonio Aparon, spokesperson of the Butuan City-based Eastern Surigao Command, said more than 3,000 people have already been displaced following days of heavy shelling on suspected rebel lairs.

"The people have deserted their homes for fear of being caught in the bombardment," Aparon said in a mobile phone interview.

The Andap Valley complex covers the towns of Lianga, Marihatag, San Miguel and San Agustin.

"The guerrillas are growing by the day, due to a humanitarian crisis," Aparon said.

He said seven farmers were reported missing since the military launched the offensive after clashes between government troops and NPA guerrillas broke out last week.

But Maj. Alexis Rocco, spokesperson of the army's 4th Infantry Division, said Aparon's claims were "exaggerated."

Rocco said the military had "substantiated" the civilians in its operations which was aimed at flushing out the rebels from the mountain-rich Andap complex.

The fighting has already claimed the lives of two army soldiers and at least 15 NPA rebels, the military said.

On Wednesday, five Scout Rangers were seriously wounded when their jeep ran over a roadside land mine in a remote village in Marihatag town.

Earlier, government troops overran an alleged rebel "bomb factory" and seized and confiscated assorted explosives and devices for bomb making and pamphlets and documents in the Andap Valley.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, chief of the military's Special Operations Command (Socom), said one of the soldiers wounded in the land mine explosion remains in critical condition.

Scout Rangers have been scouring the Andap Valley in the borders of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur after the May 5 clash in Marihatag, that gun duel that killed a junior officer.

On Sunday, four rebels were killed as troops advanced into the valley which, the military said, was being used by the NPA as base.

"We are sure we will be going up river where the incident occurred," Espina said.

He said NPA rebels could have planted the land mines in their route "sufficiently far from their original position."

Many soldiers manned the valley on May 9 and 10, Espina said "they found at least five truckloads of explosives the rebels had abandoned.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, Espina said a "comprehensive campaign is being implemented against communist rebels particularly in the towns of Marihatag and San Agustin." Franklin A. Caridad, Julie S. Alipala and Anthony S. Hilario, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Communist rebs vow to run after military general for slayings, rights violations

LUCENA CITY—The communist front offers Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, would someday pay for the series of summary killings of labor activists and human rights abuses in Eastern Visayas, the Communist Party of the Philippines said yesterday.

"The revolutionary masses will consider now that Palparan pays for every drop of blood of each and every victim of his dirty wars," said CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal in a statement.

"We hold General Palparan and those in power responsible for the rash of killings, abductions, tortures, bombings, forced evacuations and other acts of state terrorism in Samar and Leyte," the statement added.

Rosal accused Palparan of being responsible for the killing of Eversport Pastor Kilbert Lopez. Estranged Hinagupan Bisayan chair and Mikeka Multisec. head of the Kahugpungan ng mga Mag-uuma sa Sta. Isabel (Kamasi).

Estranged MR is the local chapter of the national human rights watchdog Karapatan while Kamasi is affiliated with the Kalipunan ng mga Magkakaisa ng Pilipinong (KMP).

Lopez, a former Eastern Visayas coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna, was gunned down by still unidentified armed men at about 7 p.m. Thursday past hours after he accompanied the burial of his father-in-law in front of his house in Sitio Bihalo, Barangay Cawayan, San Isidro, Leyte.

Malitao, in his title, a former barangay councilor, who was with Lopez at that time, was fatally hit by a stray bullet.

"In Eastern Visayas, the notorious psychopath Gen. Jovito Palparan, who has since been promoted to lieutenant general, has committed and promoted terroristic tactics to a new scourge. In doing so, he has shed all pretensions and has put himself forward as the Arroyo regime's most rabid and reliable butcher," Rosal declared.

The death of Lopez and Malitao brought to four the number of militant leaders in the region who were murdered by still unidentified armed men since March. The murdered men also the other hinagupan without leaders in the region for the past two months.

Alex Lepasana, secretary general of Kalipunan ng Kamagsang Bisayan-Leyte Lopez left behind two children—a 12-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy.

His remains were set to Dalit San Isidro residence.

Mayor Allan Arap condemned what he described as the "gruesome" killings of Lopez and Malitao. He said he already directed his police chief, SPO4 Delfin Kalanzal, to solve the murders.

Militant groups in the region blamed the military for the killing of the pastor.

Maj. Rosario Aldemita, chief of the 19th Civil Relations Group based in Barangay Idioma, San Jose district, in Tacloban City, denied the allegations.

"We deeply express our condolences to the families of the victims for all the same time, we strongly deny the allegations that the military is involved in the incidents," the soldier told the Inquirer.

Palparan, who vowed to finish the region's insurgency problem in six months to a year, has repeatedly denied any military involvement in any of the killings and harassment of militants. Bobby C. Macabenlo Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jessa A. Sevilla, PDI Visayas Bureau

John Hay developer sues gov't for ₱10B in damages

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay said the government for P10 billion in damages on Friday over a Supreme Court ruling that nullified the tax incentives it has been enjoying for converting the former American rest and recreation center into a P2-billion tourism hotspot.

CBMerry-Asia Robert Ang-Sy-Siaquin, president of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CBMerry), filed the suit before the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center (PDRC), a government arbitration body that enforces contracts.

Subic-port said the Base Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) duped them into building and converting 264 hectares of Camp John Hay to 1996, using tax incentives which the Supreme Court declared as a March ruling as inapplicable to the Camp John Hay special economic zone.

—Subic-port said the State's capital expenses at Camp John Hay has reached more than ₱6.2 billion because of the years duration.

Lawyer Georgina Alviola, CBMerry senior vice president for legal and corporate services, said BCDA must name CBMerry about ₱10 billion, accounting for a ₱6.22 billion penalty that the developer has been charging since assumed the contract in 1996 to the contract's termination in 2047.

CBMerry is under fire from both the BCDA and the Baguio City government for a ₱12-billion real banking, which has sent the subject of two separated parties.

But Subic-port decided to withhold the payments last year when the high court declared that only Congress had the authority to waive titles of Camp John Hay. The incentives are embodied in Presidential Proclamation 420, which created the Camp John Hay special economic zone.

On top of the damage claims, Subic-port also urged the BCDA to "hold CBMerry-Asia Ltd. harmless from any claims directly from the government and other entities as a result of the nullification of the tax and financial incentives," Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

China plans new consulate in Laoag to boost tourism

LAOAG CITY—Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wu Ronghua said the proposed establishment of a Chinese consulate in this province in the capital would provide easier access to promote trade and tourism between the Philippines and China.

He arrived here on Thursday for a four-day visit and hopes according for a site for the proposed consulate, including other areas of investment such as energy, wind power, mining and tourism.

The establishment of a Chinese consulate here was part of a reciprocal agreement between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Chinese President Mr. Jintao to advance economic and trade cooperation between their countries. The Chinese leader visited the country last month.

"I've been asked rules [chose] Laoag. This is the road's basic because I find it difficult to reach the northern part with our limited resources," Wu said in a dinner hosted by the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce here.

Wu said Laoag constitutes 20 percent of Chinese investors, prompting his government to open an office that would ensure more tourists every year see this to Philippines. China also maintains a consulate in Cebu and an embassy in Manila.

Cristina Arandia, PDI Ilocos Bureau Luzon Bureau

Key meet of mayors set in Puerto

AT LEAST 30 of the country's city mayors are expected to tackle a rate of policy issues, from the controversial internal revenue allotment (IRA) to the reclassification of 72 municipalities into cities, when the 20th annual conference-based meeting of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) opens in Puerto Princesa tomorrow.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, league chair and president respectively, said in a press statement they will find decisive solving the urgent concerns of the country's 137 cities.

They include, among others, the Department of Education's proposed school building program, the proposal to increase tax exemption privileges of non-senior property and pending resolution on the oil-related tax and the local Expanse.

The city mayors will also review the status of various projects like the CDF Project—PEBD Gran Lungsod—and the proposal to establish a Cordova Urban Center.

Hagedorn will also give an update on the program to create an environment and to the ICP which was completed with the assistance of Mayor Dio Pond, president of the Florida league of Cities, and his team.

Bets oppose postponement of polls for ARMM execs

COTABATO CITY—Muslim officials seeking public office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have opposed the postponement of the regional elections scheduled in August.

Leading the opposition are Lahanan Dilid gubernatorial candidate Bisara Zaldy Ampatuan and his running mate Lanao del Sur Assemblyman Benasingkilan Adiong.

In a gathering of the ARMM's political bigwigs from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao on Thursday, they also agreed to forestall violence during the elections.

"We do it for the sake of a peaceful and orderly ARMM polls," according to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan.

Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin has endorsed a bill in Congress seeking the postponement of the elections, claiming that holding it this year might lead to violence.

But Governor Ampatuan said the region has enough military and police forces to ensure peaceful and orderly elections.

"Six months more, the region is relatively quiet," he told reporters.

"Last year's election was stressful so the most powerful to recent years, especially in Maguindanao," he said. Edwin O. Fernandez, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WINNING DESIGN
One of the winning Paligsa designs of Arcadio Roque, navigates the floats of the modern adaptation of the Paligsa Festival in Lucban, Quezon in one of the re-enacted in the town.

ROUNDUP

Cashier survives shooting

COTABATO CITY—A cashier of the Philippine Postal Corp. survived an assassination attempt on Friday, Datu Ogong, 40, was ordering the ARMM Minister Datu Vice Sheriff Kabuntalan Mindanao but were also recommended him. He was hit below the right ear and managed to run inside the office for help. The two gunmen, both armed with cal. 45 pistols, simply walked away from the crime scene. Cagas, whom credited as a private hospital here, claimed he was releasing his old existing would when he was attacked. But police employees believed the suspects were robbery since it was their payday. They said the suspects could have thought that Cagas came from a bank with the cashier's pay.
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Van hits, kills 3

MAGALIA, Ilocos Sur—Three persons standing on a roadside in Barangay Nangaong East here were killed when a speeding van hit them on Wednesday morning. Police identified the fatalities as Gregorio Pilak, 58; Lydia Cabrera and Wendy Cabrera, 8 yrs. last reported said the right front tire of a Mitsubishi Grandi Revolution van driven by Noel Jimenez, 38, burst causing the vehicle to swerve and hit the victims. Police said Jimenez, his passengers Lorie Cabrera, 40, and Cole Pagadian, 34, and bystanders Aurelio Dingle and Elmo Calado were hurt.
Leonio Baltazar Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New meningo cases

MAGSU CITY—Local health officials have report of five new cases of suspected meningococcemia among them a seventy ground of a head stamping cndl. Dr. Antonio Bautista, head of the regional Department of Health and coordinating meningococcemia cases said, the would be guard and a resident of Sinait, Pangasinan were taken this week to the Regional General Hospital and Medical Center complaining of fever and other symptoms. The hospital is equipped to deal with the fatal meningitis since victims have accepting cases from outside the city. But Bautista said the chances of survival are small.
Pernel Catmon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Science trip for teachers

A talented village school teachers is scheduled to leave this month for Washington to attend orientation programs in science and maths. Handing the delegation is Dr. Eric Salandan, D.J., principal of the Grand Seal Jesuit School in Cebu City, who holds a doctorate in education. He will be joined by Clarence Sarabosing, Jennifer Igot, Emmanuel Ramos, Cliff Lucanegs, and Anita Tagaban—all teachers' degree holders in science education. They teach chemistry, physics, and biology at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, Ateneo de Davao University, and Ateneo de Zamboanga University. The grant was personally sponsored by Dr. Bryan Alfredo, president of the US National Academy of Science, which actively promotes and assists in "make every child a scientist," assemblyman's press statement.

DOT backs islands' tourism

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has recently included the Bondoc's Island Retirement Park in the list of the top eight marine tourism destinations of the country. Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, in a press conference, said the agency will be in charge of promoting, providing and developing business in the Pandanan Islands in accordance of agreement with the City of Mandaue. Lyn confirmed it, last by Mandaue City Mayor Ramon Dingdong of Pangasinan, who visited the tourism department recognition.

Jueteng lords use OFWs to launder money

(From page A1)

abroad," the source said in an interview. "We also get to dispose of huge amounts of cash and that makes it harder for authorities to go after him."

Normally, as happened in the past, jueteng collectors or payoffs are used to purchase property or are deposited in local and foreign banks. But that cannot happen now—amid the risk of probe, the investigation.

"In terms of the modus, it's not actually new," Deputy Director Reinerio Reinante of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, head of the money laundering subunit.

"In fact, it is also being used for illegal activities in other countries, not just in the Philippines. But whether it is specifically being used to launder jueteng money is still the happening," Garcia said.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Italy

The law-men source said he first learned about the scheme in the middle of last year. By then, he said, it was already gaining popularity—allied syndicates—among OFWs in Middle Eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

About one million Filipinos work in the Saudi Kingdom and 470,000 in the UAE.

Lately, the operation has branched out to Italy, where there are 120,000 Filipino workers, the source said.

"The OFWs become unwilling (a) involved in the laundering of millions in jueteng money. They do not generally know that the one who contacts them for the remittance is involved in jueteng," the source said.

Besides, his offer is not exactly attractive.

The scheme allows OFWs to send, not exactly the same amount—it is a bigger equivalent in pesos—that they want to send to relatives, the source said.

And unlike bank remittances, the transfers are free of transaction fees.

The scheme is also probably even more efficient than dress-to-close deliveries because the recipients in the Philippines avoid the dreaded "hand-to-hand" the masses, however big the amount is, right up to the recipient's doorstep, the source said.

Mafia-like guarantees

"There's no need to worry about people running away with the money," he said. "Jueteng operators and their men work hard, trust and confidence. If anyone fails to deliver, he will be killed, just like in any Mafia-like group."

Jueteng operators move up with the new system as part of their efforts to keep agencies like the Anti-Money Laundering Council in the dark about where their loot goes.

"Technically, what they're keeping abroad is not jueteng money but OFW remittances," the source explained. "So it's quite hard for the AMLC to go after it. Besides, it would be tricky for anyone to know where the money is being kept."

Areas of jurisdiction

Of the two known gambling lords engaged in money laundering, one is supposedly in charge of jueteng operations in Quezon province. The other purportedly covers Pangasinan, Isabela, Batanes, Mindoro, Albay and parts of Visayas.

The source said a province was parceled of meaning jueteng operations in northern Luzon did not want to get involved in the scheme.

The source said he had no information on the specific amounts being remitted by individual OFWs using the jueteng channel.

"Whatever they remit through normal channels is the same amount they send through this system," he said.

Under the scheme, jueteng operators work independently of each other, handling OFW remittances in their own areas of jurisdiction.

Mayors to sue ...

(From page A1)

will give them their maintenance and operational expenses provided that they will stop jueteng in my area and avoid receiving money from illegal sources, like jueteng," he said.

Who really knows?

"We do not know who are on the take. Even, the accusers might be indirectly or directly getting from jueteng. Who knows?" Bagatsing said.

Bagong Bilihan Institute Advisor said organized and guerrilla-type jueteng operations in the capital town had been stopped.

"If the governor is saying that the mayors are on the take [] can only say that I am not. In fact, I am even prodding our policemen to crash hard against the runners—if they're idle," Alfonso said.

Chief Supt. Jeffrey Ibrahim, Caloocan police district, said the job of stopping jueteng should not be left entirely to policemen and that a holistic approach was needed.

"Even if we are running after jueteng operators for so long [as] there are other means jobless livelihood [to those who will be displaced], they will certainly return to their old jobs once the police focus on other priorities," he said.

Not police job alone

He said the police lacked the personnel to maintain daily operations against jueteng.

"We cannot focus on jueteng alone. Local government units must [also] organize anti-vice committees should come in and help educate the people on the time promises of the game. We should not leave the police to do the job without [giving them] support," he said.

Ibrahim said he was not privy to reports that Padaca had asked for the transfer of Senior Supt. Napoleon Bonifacio, Isabela police director, despite the official's accomplishment last year of stopping jueteng in Isabela.

Anti-jueteng fighter

Bonifacio, who will assume the helm of the Lu Union police, was named the best senior police officer not for runaway but even for his audacious and anti-illegal gambling campaigns and for defusing the tension among feuding politicians in Isabela during last year's elections.

Bonifacio said that despite the meager financial support a police antigambling task force were getting from the provincial government, the Isabela police campaign against jueteng was divided by the PNP as the best in 2004.

The award was based on the number of raided jueteng dens, arrested jueteng operators and seized betting money and paraphernalia.

"We have not totally stopped [jueteng] but we were able to stop it ... My other groups or individuals are helping us [in the campaign]," Bonifacio said.

Strike 3 policy

In Metro Manila, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao recently announced commanders to "relentless" in their campaign against jueteng, described as a P12-billion a year industry that has flourished because of the protection it gets.

"Eventually, may no longer wait for 'strike three.' If it can be established that there is widespread jueteng operation here in our area, and that [the local police chief] tolerates it, he will be relieved immediately," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

Under the "strike three policy," if the police's Anti-Illegal Gambling Task Force has to go three times against illegal gambling in a town, city, province or region, the police chief of that area is sacked.

Padaca feels allies

Bataoil said allegations that local police officials were unwilling to take lead role in the crackdown against illegal gambling.

Bataoil said he was not aware local policemen could evade such illegal gambling.

Bataoil said allies in the lower House, with some lawmakers pointing fun for his one-liners.

Representatives Joel Mejo Almario (Lakas, Davao Oriental), chair of the House committee on games and amusements, and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Misamis Del), vice chair of the committee on local government, said Padaca should file charges against mayors and police officers who are involved in jueteng.

Exemplar

"She should pursue the case against these mayors and support this with evidence to sustain success of her anti-jueteng crusade," Almario said.

Cagas said other local officials should follow Padaca's example and lead the anti-jueteng campaign in their respective provinces. With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

Sierra Madre guardian is Isabela's best kept secret

From page A1

cover is devoid of big trees.

"Even commercial loggers have moved from this place," said Dr. Cindy Mudas, concerned about the rate of the Isabela trees' biodiversity is changing.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, also a native of Isabela, agreed.

In the early 1990s, then Senator Alvarez pushed for the establishment of the northern Sierra Madre mountains of a conservation park.

The park, which later became a component of the Pilot Bank-funded Integrated Protected Areas System, was declared the Palanan Wilderness in 1979. It runs to more than a mere protected area, but it extends only to 359,486 hectares.

Palanan is in the eastern portion of the park, which, at nearly 360,000 hectares, makes it the Philippines' largest protected area.

THE TOWN that runs for gas. Except for some tricycles, there are only motorcycles and vehicles called habagat, and a couple of locals on horseback, like some of Palanan are mostly dirt roads.

Biodiversity

The northern Sierra Madre is described as "a huge and largely still undiscovered trek of biodiversity" in the coffee-table book, "The National Parks and other Wild Places of the Philippines."

A portion of the book reads: Wild studies [in 1991 and 1992] by an international team of scientists] recorded [81] species, along with 76 of the nation's 169 endemic species, including the mighty Philippine eagle. It was a similar story with mammals. 14 species of bats [having been] found. Similarly, nine species of rodents were found, all endemic. Five large mammals also appears, such as deer, pig and monkey, along with two species of civet were found."

6 kinds of forest

Six kinds of forest have been identified in the area, ranging from the low-land evergreen to montane, evergreen, beach forest, limestone and forest growing on ultrabasic rocks.

Another portion of the book [printed by New Holland Publishers in the United Kingdom and there other countries reads: "The northern Sierra Madre [] ecosystem has enabled it to escape the unwelcome attention of loggers. Consequently, it remains one of the country's last great wilderness areas—barely explored, its fauna studied or scientifically described—and is of international significance as the only known home to the Luzon or Isha Philippine eagle."

The mountains are "wild and serene, with not a straight road crossing the range in its entire length [although] most maps do erroneously show several routes."

"The terrain is extremely rugged, the mountains steep and densely forested. The highest point within the park is Mt. Cetaya [elevation 5,446 feet], with at least two more peaks ... namely Mt. Dividayan [4,310 feet] and Mt. Palanan [3,977 feet]."

Inaccessibility

More than 99,000 hectares of Palanan's total area of 1,220 square kilometers are farmlands, while another 138,239 hectares are used as cropland. It has a built-up area of only 82.38 hectares.

The mainly Catholic community and town founded by Franciscan missionaries in 1609 on the banks of the Disumuroan River, is bounded by the towns of Dinapigue in the north and San Mariano in the south and west, and the vast Pacific Ocean in the east.

Dayaons, a mixture of Ibanag, Ipanemi, Tagalog and the indigenous Agta (or Dumagat) language, is the local folk's mother tongue.

"Inaccessibility is perhaps one of the reasons that retarded Palanan's growth," Pichay said.

In the absence of direct road access from adjacent towns, Palanan can only be reached by a 30-35-minute flight in a six- or four-seat, single-engine Cessna commuter plane from Cauayan City, a three-seven-hour bus ride from Dingalan or Baler, Aurora in the south, or a three-to-five-day hike from San Mariano.

Except for some tricycles, a few homes and improvised motor-driven pickups called habagat, the streets are empty most of the time.

But visiting the place is Heaven is "a must in itself," said Pichay.

"You can see the beauty of the Sierra Madre," she said. "From the air, the green treetops look like broccoli. Even if you still have to get there, you already feel that the trip is worth it."

This is why putting up a road network to the mountains is "not a good idea," she said.

Economics

Business activities are hardly felt in Palanan.

Sari-sari stores (80) top the list of commercial establishments, followed by eateries (15), dry goods stores (10), barbershop/beauty shops (8) and rice mills (7), according to town hall records.

There is no bank. Power is available in Palanan for only seven to eight hours daily.

Only a little more than 1,200 residents have access to sanitary toilets.

According to Mudas, the town was not given "the necessary focus" by her predecessors.

"I hope it's not because of its small voting population (about 8,000)," she said, but added: "The problem has nothing to do with politics, or political affiliation. I think it's more of government priorities."

Both the mayor and her son, Vice Mayor Angelo Bernardo, are members of the opposition Bulusang People's Coalition.

Last frontier

Mayor Bernardo has asked both Malacañang and Congress to study the possibility of building a "coastal road network" that would finally link Palanan to other towns by sea.

She asked the "much-needed rehabilitation" of the local airstrip to allow bigger planes to land.

According to Alvarez, Palanan needs "anything but full-scale development, especially by land developers."

"That would be the wrong kind of development," he said, adding that he would rather see Palanan remain "a bulwark of unspoiled ecology."

And "one of the country's last frontiers," the vice mayor, who serves as Palanan's tourism officer, said confidently.

METRO
Edited by Ester G. Bigornia

Trust means believing in 'bulong'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IF YOU are reliable, trustworthy and ready to work hard, then you will never go hungry.

In the fish ports of Navotas, jobs are plentiful for those with these traits, said trader Lazard Antonio Bonifacio.

Though close to midnight, the market in the Philippine Fish Port Complex, which is as big as a shopping mall, is bright and abuzz with activity.

Banyeras (tubs) full of fresh fish of different sizes and colors and other marine products are on display.

Men and women, most of them wearing rubber boots, are around hurriedly. The rubber boots protect them from the muddy water that is commonly present even if it does not rain.

But unlike in many other places, Metro drift carries a lot of weight here. Business deals are made on the basis of trust and honor.

For regular buyers who are already well known to traders, credit is given and trusted.

Those regular customers or even can take the fish and pay for it the following day.

A BUYER gives her offer in a dick-tader during the traditional "bulungan" (whispering/bidding) process at the Navotas fish port.

His word for names

"Sometimes we don't even know their family names. Lots-tess and the owner of the market would suffice," Antonio Bonifacio said.

Trust is not only required at business but also of helping boat owners, checkers, brokers, traders, hired help and supporters, who all have crucial roles in the success of the fishing.

Fishing vessel operators have to feel confident that workers will give them a fair price for the fish they bring in.

Trading is done by bid-dding—mainly through dialog (whisper) with the checker of operations. The checker is a person trusted by all those involved in the trading.

The bulong system prevents the hassle of an open bidding.

"The checker can't play favorites because there's always a chance he would be found out and he would lose a valuable paying job," Antonio Bonifacio said.

Trader Inki Antonio said the price is serious matters all over Luzon.

Setting prices

"The traders decide the price of fish in different markets in Luzon," Antonio Bonifacio explained.

If the winner does not buy all the fish being traded, losing bidders then has an idea should take the remaining fish until everything is sold.

"The trader should have a good feel for prices so they do not make too low or too high bids that would be unfair to everyone concerned.

Not just anybody can be a trader. The job is often inherited or awarded as a favor, according to Antonio Bonifacio.

A graduate of an exclusive girls school, she is married to Lay Sian Hua, who belongs to one of the old families of traders in the city.

"Today's fish traders come from families and I, Antonio Bonifacio said. These families had been in the business for several generations.

Hereditary

The Inquirer learned that not only the business of fish trading was passed on from one generation to the next. Even fish port workers "were inherited" by the children of their original employers.

Cagadoras, who are responsible for buyers, move around identified by the bamboo pole-to-chest identifiers with hooks on both ends for carrying tubs of fish.

"The rate on average at P800a night," said Domingo Bayot, who had been going to the ports since 1985. He said he inherited his job from a cousin who had to go home to Bataan for a family emergency.

"My cousin had to introduce me to his clients, otherwise they would not accept me," Domingo said in Tagalog.

He said, in the fish ports, no matter how insignificant one's job may seem, reputation matters.

"The moment you do wrong, nobody would trust you anymore," he said.

Some traders, Antonio Bonifacio said, tried working in an office but after a while most lose heart and return to fishing. "Those traders seem frustrated by time and experience. (The job may) seem easy but it is not."

Codes

Fishermen and crabs like you for one thousand and not for free. It is unique no one is buying.

Business must be profitable, which is why it is being handed down from one generation to the next.

Every night, a minimum of 40,000 kilos of fish are sold, with traders earning from P50 to P70 in per tub. But they pointed out that these were important incurred in doing business.

Trading sometimes ends at the break of day. As if the weather is good and the supply of fish is ample, it continues to wait) morning. Extended trading hours, though, do not always mean a good price.

But like in any business, there are days when traders have to sell at a price below the actual cost of the merchandise. This happens when there are more fish for sale and the demand is low.

Helper's mistake costs employer ₱2.3 million

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CONFLICT and tension, 23-year-old Elena Dalisay stole P2.3 million of her employer's jewelry to elope with a phone pal, then gave it to a stranger who had called to say her boss was in trouble.

Sales fell for the "drop-dapper" team and ended in detention in Malabon City Police.

"I was surprised when I got her license my employer said her jewelry was missing," said Dalisay.

For two years, she had been a maid at the condominium of 33-year-old head employer Carmelita Reyes-Asuncion, who lived in Malabon's Square Condominium on Valeria Street, Malate City.

Hopeinsecure has filed a qualified theft complaint against Salas for handing her jewelry to colleagues.

But Chief Insp. Lindy Rogero (retired) nurses, said she only did so on the orders of a woman who had called her Thursday afternoon.

She said the woman told her that Hopeinsecure had figured in a traffic accident and needed to funds his previous jewelry he took to pay for damages.

Inspector Marlon H. Hongantong, chief of the Malate City police station theft and robbery section, said the man about who is part of the dugo-dugo gang, lapsing of Steven Jacinto for finding home-made-ones binding over their employers' valuables by claiming their houses were in dire need of money.

Salas related that the woman instructed her to take her employer's jewelry and deliver to a hotel in Pasay City. Later, Dalisayan, where a man would meet her to take the valuables to her employer.

It was only when she got back home that she learned that Hopeinsecure was not in an accident and never ordered anybody to take her jewelry to Dalisayan.

In her statement to investigators, Hopeinsecure said she went to a hotel in Pasay to meet her paramour-to-be-married but met where she kept her jewelry. She later discovered her valuables were missing.

Hongantong said he would ask Hopeinsecure to appeal Salas as a victim herself, as the need was simply deserved by the gang.

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TAGUIG City Mayor Freddie Tinga (second from left) leads a tree-planting activity during an event held by the Bonifacio Foundation, Zonta Club of Makati, Rotarena Foundation and Manila Today. With Tinga are (from left) Ma Rosa Pineda, Zonta Makati president; Jessie Chua, Mrs. Philippines-Water; Nadia Cornelli, Mrs. Philippines-Air, and Tinga's wife Kaye.

NBI clearance mobile rolls into Antipolo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

BEGINNING next week, people need not flock to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) office in Carmelo for their clearances.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the first "NBI on Wheels" project will be launched on Antipolo City Hall on Tuesday morning.

Wycoco said the concept of a mobile clearance center "would bring one of the bureau's primary services closer to the people."

But in the project, the bureau aims to raise and source NBI clearances in areas far from NBI regional, district or satellite offices.

Wycoco explained that the "NBI on Wheels" truck would temporarily be stationed in an NBI regional office until the bureau's team exporting to the regional district.

"Notice is given for the NBI or the local government or business district or you requesting for the "NBI on Wheels" so the public could be informed about the project," he said.

The NBI has chosen Antipolo City as its pilot area.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Rapies

Judith Pusiri's blue gown was inspired with chiffon. PHOTOS BY JOHN BRYAN ULANDAY

A YELLOW tribal sabo gown created by Shameyna Fuda and Pochoi Pusiri

GOVERNMENT Ronald Singson, son of Gov. Chavit Singson, displays the abel Iloco Barong Tagalog made by Flores.

ILOCOS Sur Teresita Cordero models the fuchia terno-inspired gown designed by Enrique Flores and made of abel Iloco and chiffon.

PERFECT for 35 years: Another creation of Fuda and Pusiri

THE RED fuchia skirt also designed by Flores.

ABEL ILOKO

From soldier's blanket to *haute couture*

By Frank Cimatu
IDE Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Abel Iloco used to be so ubiquitous that they were known more as the "soldier's blanket."

Remember those inexpensive blankets you gave for weddings where you can have the names embroidered prominently? There, too, were abel Iloco. They were natural, hardy and attractive like the Ilocanos that were them.

But as things go, the abel Iloco was forgotten. Sadly no one grows cotton in Ilocos anymore. The only weavers left were in their 60s and no one bothered to pick up the skill again.

Vigan, the center of the industry used to have a wooden hand loom or eight in all the houses. Now only about 100 households are engaged in abel weaving, particularly in the village of Camangaan. The rests, which used to be present in the province, is now imported to Ilocos.

Thanks to modern dyeing techniques, abel Iloco has transformed itself into a local weave almost as par with the very expensive and fragile piña.

Now abel Iloco is haute couture, thanks to the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines which had been promoting indigenous fibers and designs for the global market.

Although FDCP had been using abel Iloco in their fashion shows in Manila, Hong Kong and Seoul, residents in Ilocos Sur still regard the abel Iloco as the cheap and ubiquitous piece of clothing, said provincial administrator Victor Co.

Co organized the abel Iloco Fashion Show as the highlight of the Vigan celebrations. Plaza Burgos was transformed into a fashion gallery with two ramps constructed on both wings to form a "V." The stage was bedecked up with silver and gold abel Iloco.

Although the crowd included Ambassador Umberto Colesanti of Italy and Christmas Tangbo, Boston's Zenaida Santos and Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the audience was mostly Vigan's backpillos.

"We wanted them to be proud again of the abel Iloco," said Co.

"With this fashion show, we pay tribute to the world-famous abel Iloco, our trademark as Ilocanos," said Singson. "We hope the rest of the world will sleep and take notice."

Featured designers were Archie Pobocan, Shoreyma Fuda and Co. of Vigan as well as FDCP's Enrique Flores and Judith Pusiri. Models all came from Vigan.

The children and teen portion, mostly done by Pobocan and Pusiri, reminded us as to why abel Iloco was created in the first place. They were so cool because the layered pauses through. Mostly in pastel, they are perfect for humid areas.

ILOCOS Sur Vice-Governor Cheryl Portuma in a lime yellow terno created by Enrique Flores

That point dissuaded the female high school students from whom I sat, as some took shots with their cellphones.

The Ilocano designers used the distinctive tag cloth mostly sold in Vigan stores while Flores and Pusiri tried to do away with the glitters and used mostly textile combinations.

Flores created the image of the abel Iloco as still blending their with organza and tulle to create ballgowns and terno in mostly bright colors.

Cherie Portuma walked (down) on the ramp in fuchia terno-draped with chiffon while fellow Ilocos Sur Board Member Teresita Cordero wore a lime yellow terno-inspired gown, both from Flores.

There were two other board members who acted as models for Flores' creations. Ronald Singson and his uncle Jerrimias modeled abel Iloco barongs which could be used for those made in piña.

"A lot of experimentation had been done to develop the fabrics and make them comparable with most costlier imported fabrics," said Flores.

A red bubble skirt, for example, had to be electric pleated and 20 yards of abel had to be used.

The showstopper, Pusiri's white wedding gown embroidered in silver, as complained one fashion expert that she even asked me if she could buy it from the designer for her daughter's wedding in California.

"The abel Iloco is really being coveted by Ilocanos abroad, but we are dreaming of a time when Ilocanos designers will also step out to take notice," said Co.

If that would happen, then the cloth that was once good only for soldiers would have come a long way.

Lowly tilapia gets complete makeover; demand up

By Charles E. Rohan

TILAPIA (also called St. Peter's Fish) is a hardy, prolific, but growing warm water fish native to Africa and Israel, where it has been farmed for about 2,500 years.

It has been dubbed 'the aquatic chicken,' because it can be grown in a variety of locations from backyards to high-technology farms—which is why its raising and its allied industries have been challenging in regions like Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"In fact, tilapia is second only to salmon as a popular farm-raised fish worldwide," says Rachel Rimalia, operations-managing partner of Filvida, a leading supplier of vaccines packed and taken from tilapia-rich products in the country.

She says the industry owes its growth to one Filipino: Dr. Rafael Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology, who pioneered in the early '70s the commercialization of the tilapia species and technology (a process by which parent-female tilapia fry are converted into hard-head males through hormone manipulation).

"Today, as a result of his work, a new wave of fish farmers would-be are raising tilapia, whose meat products are fast compelling in the fresh or frozen-filet market," says Rimalia.

Filvida

Filvida was founded by Rimlal's father, Fred, who, early the mentorship of his friend Guerrero, developed his own technique in raising tilapia seven years ago.

Today, the company processes two tons of the fish per day, which it raises in tanks located in Laguna, Batangas, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon.

"Guerrero's studies have shown our father that the male tilapia grows faster and bigger than the female tilapia, which should therefore be the natural preference of tilapia growers," says Rimalia, Filvida's operations-managing partner.

Guerrero had shown that tilapia fry could be converted to all-male populations when fed a synthetic male hormone for a certain period during the "sexless" stage.

"However, he proved that the male tilapia could work on a commercial scale," says the elder of the Rimalia sisters.

Imported from Thailand

Tilapia was first introduced in the Philippines in 1950s when Dr. Dioscoro Hilarides of the Bureau of Fisheries (now known as Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) brought in Mozambique tilapia from Thailand.

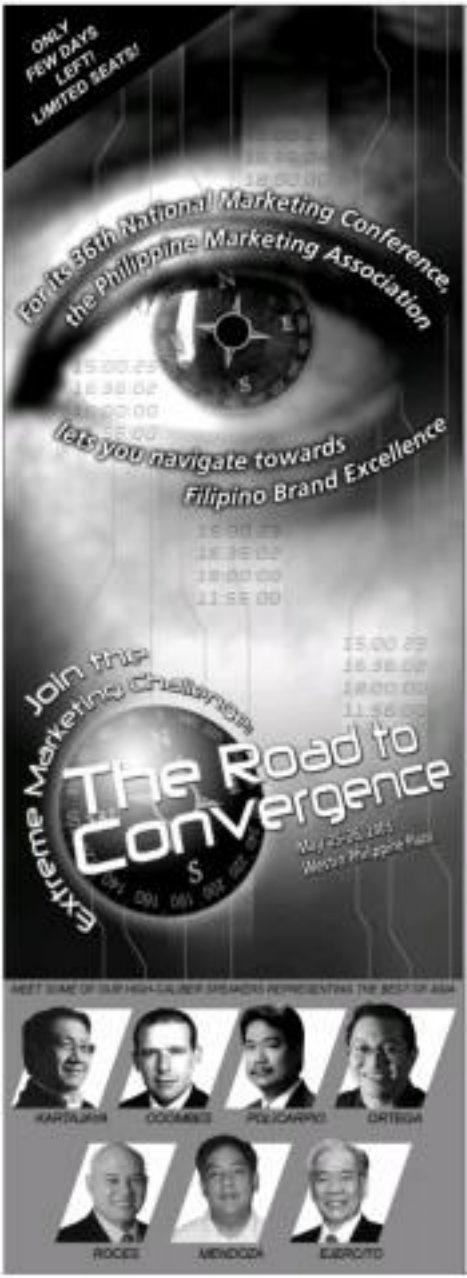
Known for its cheap price and strong earthy taste, tilapia soon became popular among impoverished Filipino households.

"Nowadays, thanks to technology (tilapia farm) and venture has improved significantly and we believe its about time this tilapia to fully escape its cheap fish label and become a major export product of the country," says the Rimalia.

World-wide tilapia production hit 1.6 million metric tons in 2002 and currently ranks third in the world among the species of the total fish produced, according to the United States Agriculture of Research Service.

The same agency predicted that tilapia will become the most important aquaculture crop this century.

TILAPIA dito, anyone?



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Beauty and fitness emerge as growth industries in RP

BEAUTY and fitness has emerged as a growth industry in the Philippines and the rest of the world.

This development surfaced from expert trends indicating a whopping 20-percent growth rate for beauty and fitness products annually.

The 20-percent growth forecast, issued by the Bureau of Export Trade Promotions, was based on the consistent rise in the country's export of such products, which registered sales $2.6 billion (also for bottled personal care and cosmeceuticals) alone.

Even in the Philippines, the market for these products are becoming more and more lucrative, with 46 percent of the 90 million population comprising people below the age of 44, including an ever increasing number of women with growing purchasing power and economic savvy of "metrosexuals" who spend more on acquiring good health and good looks.

All these are made evident by the proliferation of gyms, health clubs and spas, beauty salons, food supplements, cosmetic products and services, wellness and many other related enterprises, not only in the Philippines, but also abroad, according to Lynn Romero, president of Worldexec, which is staging a beauty and fitness expo for this similar industry.

Expo

"The expo, dubbed Beauty & Fitness World 2008, will run from May 29 to 31 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila to showcase the latest trends, products, services, technologies and all the business opportunities that abound in this multi-faceted field of enterprise," Romero said.

Details can be obtained from Worldexec Inc. @ 8711638 or 8347503, fax 8340609, or email sales@worldexec.com.ph.

Supporting the Beauty & Fitness World 2008 expo are Global Jewelry Cable, Beauty Cosmetics, Hiwellness, Health & Lifestyle, Shinshi, Organic Technologies, Designers Guidance by Stylo, GSC Professional Lights & Sounds, Rosendo Media Publications, The Estilo Partners Inc., KLS Asia and JOS-I Creatures.

Expected to visit the expo are the industry's multitude of prospective buyers and clients, including industry professionals, agents and distributors, retailers, business end-users, and consumers, among many others.

"They will also have the opportunity to attend free lectures and live product demos, and experience the latest trends and technologies in health care and beauty treatments from renowned local and international practitioners," Romero added.

Aside from Philippine-based firms, the exhibitors include countries companies from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and corporate players from Australia.

"As a service of the global consumer trend for beauty and fitness, the Philippine government is now aggressively promoting the country as a health vacation destination in Asia.

"There is an ongoing it. The trends show soaring sales for skin lightening and anti-wrinkle products for the skin care market, as most products development obviously incorporate the ever-changing Filipino lifestyle in the formulation of how-to-use victuals, and the emergence of innumerable and other aesthetic devices, among many others, indicates the continuous and tremendous growth of the beauty and fitness niches in the many years to come," Romero added.

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JOB

PICKING OTHERS' TRASH

Bank goes to island where it left gold 64 yrs ago

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN the Japanese imperial army invaded Manila at the outbreak of World War II in 1941, it took over the offices of Standard Chartered Bank, then known as The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, at the 2nd floor of the Wilson Building in Escolta and made it its Treasure headquarters.

Fortunately, Chartered Bank officials were able to evacuate part of its gold reserves to the island of Corregidor, the last refuge of the 66-enemy Americans and Filipino forces and the seat of the besieged Commonwealth government under President Manuel L. Quezon.

More than sixty years later, more than 100 top officials of Standard Chartered Bank, led by its CEO Simon Morris, trudged back to Corregidor last May 7 to 8.

They did not carry gold this time, but gloves, trash bags and dustpans to pick up the remnants of trash from Metro Manila and Cavite that the currents washed up on the beaches of Corregidor as part of their "Eco Blackout."

Morris told Bankwatch that the senior and middle management team's heart sank when they first got to the beach just after dawn of May 8 because it was littered with bottles, cans, plastic, rubber slippers, bit cases, styro packages and even used condoms.

"At first we thought that we would not be able to make a difference because there was just too much trash. But thought our would move get it cleaned," Morris said.

But after about three hours, with the 100 or so employees working in teams in different parts of the beach, over 100 bags full of trash were pulled out, transforming the beach into something people could actually enjoy.

They were tired from all that work in the immense Corregidor heat, but their efforts were pulled up with pride at having achieved something significant on Mother's Day—caring for Mother Earth.

It just goes to show that achieving natural high does not always mean individuals doing a whole lot, but a whole lot of individuals doing their little bit," Morris says.

Joining Morris in the trip include Steve Robson, head, consumer banking for Tanzania; Geoff Gilchrist, head, global markets; Chandrashekhar Jog, country financial officer; David Gonzales, head, bargit and consumer; Susie Gonzales, head, income investors; and Jose Iglesias, head, corporate affairs.

Other senior officers who took part in the Eco weekend include Gary Bastasa, general manager of wealth management; Audrey Aggarwal, general manager of wealth sales and personal banking; Gabor Somers, head of credit; Cha Bautista, head of logo audit/controls and Bobby Fernandez, head of fixed income.

Merely not the employees sent on the field their shovels and trash receptacles, they also got the chance to bond with colleagues they just bump into along the office corridors.

And what better venue to bond than Corregidor—the site of one of the most significant battles during World War II?

It was Morris who broached the idea of getting Standard Chartered employees to visit Corregidor because he thought after first seeing it in 2000 that it was a historical place that everybody should visit.

It was two years later when the Standard Chartered finally organized the trip with additional participation to get top officials and middle managers to visit Corregidor and at the same time do their bit for the environment, one of the key advocacies of the Standard Chartered global corporation.

Morris says he was a little bit surprised to learn that around 60 to 70 percent of the staff who went on the trip said it was their first time to see foot on Corregidor.

"I guess if it is right on your doorstep, you tend to take it for granted," he says.

But important, if Standard Chartered would have its way.

Driven by the bank internals to visit the island once a year and include it in its long list of corporate responsibility projects.

Standard Chartered has set aside some funds to help Corregidor Foundation Inc. in its activities to protect the island's irreplaceable treasures, which are in incredible part of Philippine history.

Corregidor officials close to 100,000 visitors a year and plans are underway to further develop it as an ideal site for sports and recreation, on top of its attractions as a historical landmark.

Standard Chartered intends to help Corregidor Foundation rise to plateau high.

The employees intend to go back and bring their families, not to look for the still missing gold, but to soak up history and be proud to be a Filipino.

100 STANDARD Chartered Bank officials take time to visit Corregidor and clean its shores.

STANDARD Chartered CEO Simon Morris (top photo) leads clean-up of Corregidor's shores.

Revival of mining industry to increase incomes

MANDAUE used to be a boomtown in the Cordillera before the Mt. Marcham Gem all were enchanted like all-diamond during weekends, selling all kinds of merchandise to its residents who earned top money working in the gold and copper mines of the Lepanto Mining Co.

When world prices for copper concentrate plunged to its lowest beginning 1985, the mines shut down. The banks and banks in Baguio City showed down to a deep pace. Then several of its residents migrated to Baguio City in search of jobs.

Today, there is hope that Mankayan will resume its lively economic days when the mines come alive again. The world prices of copper, gold and silver have recovered, for the biggest cause for this optimism is the recent decision of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995, including the opening up of areas deep in the mineral reserves.

Says Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo L. Neri: "This landmark decision sends a clear signal that investors in the sector, including foreign investors, are welcome."

The mining industry is among the top 12 priority investment areas identified by the Medium-Term Philippine Investment Plan (MTPIP) 2004-2010 that could help accomplish the administration's agenda of providing work for 10 million Filipinos and helping increase investments in the decade.

Neri is optimistic the sector can help 12 medium-size to large-scale metallic activities in the extraction of gold, copper, nickel and chromite. Aside from these are 25 cement plants and quarries, 80 small to medium-scale limestone quarries and aggregate quarries and 6 working plants, 6 small to medium-size marble quarries and more than 2,000 small quarries and mines of various metallic and nonmetallic items.

For this year, five new mining projects are expected to go on-stream, with total investments totalling P3.5 billion, three include Boyongan Copper and Nonoc Nickel mines in Surigao del Norte; Far Southeast Gold in Mankayan, Benguet; Rapids Nickel in Davao Oriental, and another nickel mine in Mindoro Island.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said the mining industry previously contributed almost one to 2 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). While its gross value added has increased through the years, at P5.72 billion in 1975 to P11.9 billion in 1991 and P17.05 billion in 2001. It

THE NEDA estimates the country's mineral wealth to be worth more than $800 billion or P1 trillion.

close to the GDP has remained relatively constant.

What mining can contribute

The Neda estimates the country's mineral wealth to be worth from $800 billion to $1 trillion. This amount is 14 to 17 times the current Philippine external debt of $57 billion. Extracting only a tenth of this mineral wealth is more than enough to pay off our debt. Here's also to the Neda's director general, points out.

Mining could also provide substantial taxes to the government, especially for local governments. In 2000, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences estimated that mining tax revenues collected amounted to P2.5 billion. Of this amount, a third went to local governments.

If the mining industry were in full swing and the annual targeted $5 to 7 billion foreign exchange earnings estimated by the MTPIP were realized, that would translate into roughly P17 to 23 billion annual tax revenues for the government. This tax intake could greatly help in financing its huge development initiatives aimed at improving the quality of lives of all Filipinos.

Another significant potential of a strong mining sector is that it could trigger downstream and related economic activities especially for the non-metallics that have the mining activities. For instance, large-scale mining operations have usually been accompanied by infrastructure facilities that benefit local communities including power, roads, roads, housing and others.

These have numbers have exposed local livelihood activities and generally improved the quality of life in the mining areas. And to ensure that mining activities would not harm the environment, the local communities could also serve as watchdogs over the activities of the mining companies.

A tale of underachievement

Since 1980, when the mining industry contributed a high $1.37 billion in exports revenues, this sector's share in exports had steadily declined. It's share to total Philippine exports dropped from 24 percent in 1972 to only 2 percent in 2004.

Likewise, the mining activities were at its lowest in 1997 at $2.04 million despite the passage of the Mining Act two years before. Investments surged to $161.26 million in 1998 to a high of $229.47 million only to become of the discovery and development of the Philippine mineral gas deposit off Palawan.

The poor performances of the mining sector in the past are traced to the the low mineral price, the 1990 Mt. Pinatubo mudflow which heightened opposition to mining, prolonged deliberations on the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995.

From 1979 to 2002, metallic minerals accounted for 92 percent of the country's total mineral production value while nonmetals accounted for the rest. Of the total mineral production value, gold had the highest share at 50 percent followed by copper at 21 percent.

Fulfilling its promise

With the favorable high-return development upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act, Neri cited four other factors that should help the ailing industry grow ... cost, untapped mineral resources of the country, prevailing high prices of minerals and metals, completion of Philippine Mineral Action Plan, priority given to revival of mining.

Edwin P. Dalmacio, Jr., reflects Philippine

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

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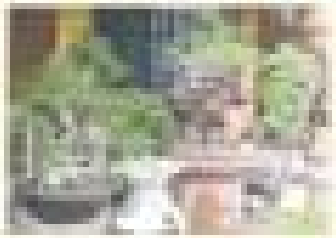

FINDING joy in gardening

FLOWERS and fashions of May

WEDDING candles all a-glow

A heritage of chow

The National Heritage Month gets a delicious celebration with a festival focusing on food and history

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Ryan Lim

Nikki Henriquez and Dina Bautista sign onto a historic feast at Mandarin Oriental.

THE PROCLAMATION of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic on Jan. 23, 1899 in Malolos, Bulacan was more than enough reason for feasting, says Dina Bautista, book author, theater and film director and production designer.

"The island that used to be mostly 'savaged' [achieved itself as] the first nation ... to achieve freedom in all of Asia. It was championed before the world as the region's first democracy with its own government, its own flag and its own national anthem," Bautista says.

As a way of remembering such historic moment, May has been declared as Filipino Heritage Month. In observance of the celebration, the Mandarin Oriental, Manila Peninsula and Manila's Oriental Manila are holding food festivals.

"The opening salvo of Filipino Heritage Month was held last year, but it was not able to showcase a heritage cuisine festival," says Bautista, who did last year's production design for the Department of Tourism and now for Mandarin Oriental Manila. "The fiesta is also about a already passé as I thought of recreating different feasts based on Philippine history which will be honored in Pigging."

"Pigging: A Heritage of Cuisine," which will

→ PAGE 2 (C)

SARDINES in Tomato Sauce

HIGLAPED Salmon

ASSORTED Greens

FRESH fruits

A heritage of chow

CRABMEAT au gratin

From page C1

be held on May 23-27 at the Cayman's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, is organized by the Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc., National Commission on Culture and the arts, and the Department of Tourism.

Reminis, who owns and operates the of the Colonies, a Philippine heritage company, and Mita Enriquez, food historian, and co-author of the book "Kalamayi," collaborate with Mandarin Oriental Manila in showcasing a culinary tapestry that focuses on the food-to-do banquets that were held in "Bahay na Bato" residences in the 19th century.

Both consultants are linked to, if not direct descendants of historic families in Bulacan. Enriquez's clan's hometown is Angat, while Reminis is a descendant of the side-by-camp of General Gregorio del Pilar while Reminis is a descendant of the side-by-camp of General Emilio Aguinaldo.

According to Reminis, the focus is made the most extensive venue for displaying wealth and importance. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 hastened the arrival to the archipelago of European plates, platter, silverware, wines, liquor, olive oil and other condiments necessary to impress guests with the "Europeanness" of house owners.

Historic menu

With the society of the day today is having European world's Reminis says. On menu served on the proclamation of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic was written in French.

Researches reveal that a good portion of the menu were Bulacan dishes such as chicken galantine, adobo, crabmeat au gratin, oysters and shrimps," Reminis says. "Rendered with French cuisine, these dishes were served on European plates, thus enhancing the elite gourmet experience famous menu."

Mandarin Oriental Manila's first-day lunch buffet menu at culinary venue Green daily On May 23, banquets de la República presidencial constitución Real was served during the inauguration of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic in Malolos.

The menu, written in French by Pedro Paterno and friends, includes "Bouteyet Boiled, Meat and Potatoes, Chicken Gibbi a la Valenciana, Filet of Fish a la Chateaubriand with green French beans, Alamos Chops a la Papillote with potatoes and strawberry Jelly."

After 24 will focus on the Mesa de Recuerdo, which dates back to the time when the port of Manila opened to foreign trade following the closing of the Galleon Trade with Mexico.

It was the time when wealth poured in from the hacienda that produced abaca, rope, tobacco, indigo, coffee and sugar. The center of the economic boom shifted from to commerce as the principal source that produced these products for export. The table of the hacienda displayed Cadiz and Sevilla in utensil of palette and cooking.

Thus, pantry-iconic offerings at the Cayman's Bar include Bacalaong Manggas, Spring Roll, Bibingka Tinimpal on Mousse and Bibingkang Malagkit.

The Fine Banquet, which will be featured on May 25, refers to the Spaniards' first taste of native cuisine as chronicled by Gaston Antonio Pigafetta.

According to documents, Rajah Humabon rendered a feast for Magellan and his men. The feast consisted mainly of seafood that must have been served on a dahong or leaf table. Items on the menu to commemorate the historic feast are Ribereña Tinapay-at-Gata, Hamon Kadena, Oysters Kinilaw, Tinapay Tinggang sa Hiwaga, sarsiya and Dilang ng Lupa Lasa.

On May 26, A Filipino Table in Paris depicts dishes of Filipino origin or adaptations of "Recipes native based on Hispanic cooking." At this, such food are: a salute to the Spanish Indies Bureau combining French cultures. Among the epicurean were Juan Luna, Buenaventura Hidalgo, Pedro Paterno and Isabel Bonson. The culinary fare for this festival consists of dishes de Manila, Collaborates with Rena and Chuchuca, Serena a la Valenciana, Salsete de Bulacan, Carne Machada con Aceituna and Bienenque.

Kinta de Lipa, to be presented on May 27, showcases the cuisine of Lipa, Batangas. At late-night repast in the 19th century, Lipa becomes the sole supplier of coffee to Europe, considered as to some measures gave birth to the famous theme, "Barakahan" in Kape."

The gastronomy tour includes Paterno cooked with Champignon, Sopa de la Reina, Steak de Bulbos, Ingua de Ulang, Morcon, Arroz Valenciana with a ground pork, ice fruit, egg yolks, pineapple truffles and Brasa.

Other activities

On the opening of "Piging: A Heritage of Cuisine," Ian Gonzaga will do a demonstration on the "concocting art of making pastillas wrapper. A chest from Bulacan will reunite musicians' songs and rebonds/dolce will present a bodegasan.

"The campaign for culture has to be done on many fronts. Cuisine is one of the easiest

GLACES

and scenic ways to attract attention as we thought of commercializing food culture can, and of the same time show our historical relationship with neighboring countries," Reminis says.

Call Mandarin Oriental Manila at 7266888.

Email the author at thegastro@gmail.com.ph

THE MENU served on the proclamation of the First Philippine Constitutional Republic was written in French by Pedro Paterno and friends

PROCLAMATION of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic on Jan. 23, 1899 in Malolos, Bulacan

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

RED Monique Lhuillier original for more daring

Glimpses of the Monique Lhuillier magic

Cebu's world-class heritage in design is amply showcased at the New World Hotel, which is holding an exhibit of Cebu arts and crafts

Text by Checbi V. Marsi
Photos by Belen Johnson

FILIPINOS who were saddened that Monique Lhuillier's planned show in the Philippines last year didn't join our cam-save final solace in the mini exhibit of her creations at the grand lobby of New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City, until May 22.

Lhuillier's gowns, designed by and in love from her mother, Cebu socialite Amparito Lhuillier, are shown alongside the best of Cebu's for-export crafts—furniture by multi-awarded designer Kenneth Cobonpue; fashion jewelry by Pharrin Allred goddess Ronik Lacsamana of Avante Accessories; bags by Lito Arcenas of Bernhat Corp. and footwear Mariland-Jewels Lhuillier—and home accessories made of shagreen (stingray skin) by Cebu Island Exports.

The "Celebrate Cebu" exhibit is part of the Filipino Heritage Festival, a nationwide fair marking Philippine history, culture and festivities. This is the second year the heritage month is being celebrated since President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the Iberia month of May in National Heritage Month in August 2004. The event is a joint project of the Philippine Commission on Culture and the Arts, Department of Tourism and Filipino Heritage Festival Inc.

This year, several top hotels in the metro are taking part in the month-long celebrations on food fairs showcasing the cuisines of different provinces. For its part, New World Hotel Cebu (1.1 million) decided to complement Cebu's culinary feasts at its coffee shop with a showcase of world-famous Cebuano brands and products.

"Cebuanos are very talented and diligent, so this must be why they are successful," says Amparito Lhuillier.

CLIMPSES 11

RUCHING and handmade roses—details also employed by Monique Lhuillier in the bridal gowns of Christine Remington, who was crowned Binibining Pilipinas 2005

FASHION jewelry by Avalon Accessories

HAND-BEADED gown by Monique Lhuillier

BRIDAL gowns by Monique Lhuillier, whose clients include Sarah Jessica Parker, Angelina Jolie, Jessica Simpson, Mariah Carey, Sharon Stone, among others

CEBU socialite Jacqueline Lhuillier in a bridal suit and [illegible] top by her daughter. The blue lace gown at left is also a Monique Lhuillier original, created for her mother, with velvet ribbon bodice that emphasizes the older woman's still-tiny waistline.

Glimpses of the Monique Lhuillier magic

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BED with woven frame by Kenneth Cobonpue of Cebu-based Crafts of the Islands Inc.

Imperio's daughter Monique is the Los Angeles designer currently favored by many of Hollywood's A listers. She famously sewed the bridal gown of Britney Spears and her entourage's shoulders when the pop superstar wed last year. The 33-year-old designer was born and raised in Cebu.

Too busy

Lhuillier says her now-famous daughter is quite busy. Got she said any whether plans of a Philippine show will finally push through the year. The designer is in talks with ABS-CBN Foundation to stage a show for benefit the Ramon Soto Foundation), says the mom, but nothing is definite yet.

"Uh, she's too busy she can't even make clothes for me," Lhuillier says in mock dismay. She adds she has only 8-10 Monique Lhuillier pieces in her wardrobe...four of them are on display at New World. (A bridal gown, not

CONSOLE table [left] and home accessories made of shagreen and parchment by GA/Cebu Interiors Export

BEADED bag by Joanna Maitland-Smith Lhuillier

THESE Cebu-made Angeun Ledesma designs and more are exported to Russia, Spain, South Arabia, Hong Kong and Japan by Michel Simon Bulaso and his Filipino-made Brass of Gil Cebu International Export.

Issues by the designer for use in food chains, as also on display.

"Pantaasya lamparo. I put [by my clothes]," the mom says. "Of course, I get [orders] occasion." The woman is elegantly dressed in a velour peasant mini-top—made by her daughter, quite naturally. Monique has sold 2,000 pieces of this, in different colors," she says of her knitwear. "I patronize other designers ... Cebu designers," she cites this. "I hope only our guests a Manila designers in time [cont.]."

Lladller proudly says these Filipino brands will be wearing her daughter's designs this year. "Gusto ko rin [I also want] to introduce [them] to the Filipino."

For a bride from Bavarian Lladller wore the gown designed by her daughter. It's probably the only occasion's ever wearing only had to make minor adjustments with the shoulder straps.

"Monique, my baby, wanted to become a designer since she was 12 years old. But we tried to dissuade her because, you know, it's a difficult business. Well, look at her now," Lladller says proudly.

Lladller adds she and her husband give their daughter $10,000 to send money in 1997. Today, Monique Lladller's most elaborate pieces can cost much as that amount. "You know, she was able to make five gowns with that money where she was starting out. Then sequence count pose up to." As persons, says the mother, only two Filipino-American to other daughter's and.

"But Lladller's are scheduled to coach their daughter's collections in September in the United States. "I also want to see the other gown in her [to Saks Fifth Avenue in New York," says Lladller. "It's right next to Oscar de la Renta and Valentino!"

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